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Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Council Statement on 'Threats' Against Libya

LD1911204891 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 19 Nov 91

["Arab Magreb Union Pool" item]

[Text] Algiers, al-Harth [November] 19 (JANA)—The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Shurah Council confirmed its rejection of the American and Western threats against the Great Jamahiriyah. In a statement issued by the council at the conclusion of its meetings yesterday in Algeria, it expressed its full support, solidarity and collaboration with Great Jamahiriyah and its call for logic, wisdom and rationality. The council bureau agreed to hold the third session of the Arab Maghreb Union Shurah Council in the Great Jamahiriyah during the month of al-Yannar [January] next year. It is worth mentioning that the Shurah Council Bureau started its meetings on Sunday to study its agenda items which included the recent provocations against the Great Jamahiriyah, the choosing of Algeria as venue for the headquarters of the Shurah Council and other issues of interest.

Arab Lawyers Union Expresses Support for Libya

NC1911194491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—The general secretariat of the Arab Lawyers' Union [ALU] has expressed its grave concern over the campaign by the United States, Britain, and France against Libya under the pretext of combating terrorism.

The ALU general secretariat affirmed in a statement today that the campaign against Libya is a violation of international norms and charters and constitutes interference in Libyan affairs. It also violates Libya's right to impose its authority over its entire territory and submit its citizens to the sovereignty of its laws, especially national laws.

The statement praised the stand Libya took in referring the case to a Libyan judge and the fact that the Libyan justice ministry is investigating the American and British allegations that Libyan citizens were involved in the explosion of the American civilian plane in 1988 over Scotland.

The ALU statement said that while it condemns terrorism in general, the ALU believes that international terrorism can only be resolved by respecting people's rights and defusing tension by solving problems and regional issues, especially the Palestine question on the basis of the laws of international legitimacy.

ALU Secretary General Faruq Abu-'Isa sent a cable today to the leader of the Libyan Revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In his cable, Abu-'Isa expressed ALU support and backing for the Libyan people in their affirmation of their sovereignty over their land and nation.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi Leaves for Amman Consultations 19 Nov

TA1911143491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, left this morning for consultations in Amman. Dr. Ahmad Al-Yaziji from Gaza also left for Jordan. Faysal al-Husayni and several of the delegation members will return from Amman tomorrow.

To Travel to Moscow With Al-Husayni

JN2011063891 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Palestinian leaders Faysal al-Husayni and Haydar 'Abd- al-Shafi will go to Moscow today for talks about Middle East peace efforts with Soviet officials.

Palestinian sources said al-Husayni and 'Abd-al-Shafi, top figures in the recent Madrid peace conference, will travel to Moscow from Amman, where they have been discussing the future of peace with top Jordanian officials.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Moscow Visit

JN2011122391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, in Amman by Sa'id Mu'addh from the studio in Jerusalem, carried within the "With the Midday Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addh] Dr. Haydar, at whose request will the visit to Moscow by the Palestinian delegation tomorrow take place, and what is the purpose of this visit?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is an invitation from the Soviet Foreign Ministry for talks with the Palestinian delegation. I don't know more than this. There is no specific agenda and there is no information on what is going to take place during this visit.

[Mu'addh] Dr. Haydar, what subjects were discussed between the Palestinian side and Jordanian officials?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In general, the meetings always deal with the importance of coordination and identical views toward the bilateral negotiations. This is the essence of what is going on in these contacts.

[Mu'addh] Has the Palestinian delegation, which is currently in Amman, coordinated the next moves on the venue of the bilateral talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As for the venue, viewpoints are identical. We preferred that Madrid continue to be the venue, but the Israelis object to this, and we object to holding the talks in this region. Therefore, the issue is now with the two sponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union. We are still awaiting a decision on the venue and time.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, what stage has the subject of forming political committees in the territories reached, and has this issue been coordinated with Jordanian officials?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The political committees question has been delayed at present. There is no talk at present about the political committees. This issue is premature.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, there are reports about changes that will take place in the members of the Jordanian side. What do you know about these changes?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I don't know anything about this subject.

[Mu'addi] How true are the reports that the PLO has withdrawn its support for the formation of municipal councils in the territories, particularly in Gaza?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I don't have information about the PLO's position on this issue, but the general feeling is that these issues should be dealt with carefully and should be delayed until we see what happens at the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Final question, what about the changes that are going to take place in the members of the Palestinian side in the next stage?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, the door is open for taking all measures that enable the Palestinian delegation to perform efficiently and effectively.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Al-Husayni: 'Extremist Trends' If Peace Fails

JN2011105791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Council to the Palestinian delegation for the negotiations with Israel has warned that failure of the peace efforts to resolve the Palestine question would lead to a rise in the extremist trends in the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Husayni was speaking at an open dialogue at the World Affairs Council in Amman, held Monday evening with the attendance of Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and a number of officials.

He said the Palestinian delegation is prepared to coordinate with all Arab countries providing that no Arab party imposes political positions on it.

He praised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for linking settlement of the Gulf crisis to a settlement of the Palestine question and implementation of international legitimacy. He said if international legitimacy is realized in Palestine, then Iraqi blood would not have been spilled in vain.

He said the international and Palestinian circumstances have led the PLO to accept dealing with the U.S. efforts to resolve the Palestine question.

He stressed that the United States seeks to resolve the Palestine question in accordance with its own policy and not in implementation of international legitimacy because it is concerned with realizing stability in the region regardless of who pays the price of this stability.

He said, however, that at the same time, Washington seeks to realize an acceptable solution to the Palestine question.

He said the Palestinians are working to realize a political solution to their question, but they will not relinquish their historical right of restoration of the whole of Palestine. At this stage the Palestinians have not demanded a historical or ideological solution to their question because had they done so, they would have rejected the solution presented to them by Washington.

'Ashrawi: Delegation No 'Substitute' for Leadership

NC2011092391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, has stressed that no Palestinian would agree to stop the intifadah before realizing the goal of ending occupation and establishing a Palestinian state.

In an interview with the Egyptian paper AL-AHALI today, 'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian delegation to negotiations is not a substitute for the PLO leadership. She explained that its members represent a popular delegation entrusted with the accomplishment of a specific mission; that is, to negotiate. She further stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the intifadah leadership is the PLO's arm inside the occupied territories.

On the Egyptian stand on the negotiation process, Dr. 'Ashrawi said the Egyptian stand is excellent and up to the required standards. She further said that Egypt has a central role in supporting the Palestinian cause. She expected that role to continue, adding that the Palestinians demand that coordination continue among the Arab governments involved in the peace process and stress that the PLO should be a basic partner to the coordination process.

PLO's 'Abbas on Peace Talks Prospects

PM1911161091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 91 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Memuer Mahmud 'Abbas by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Abu-Husayn] What is the latest on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's efforts to convene an Arab summit conference before the second phase of the peace conference begins?

['Abbas] The efforts being made in that direction have not crystallized yet. I do not believe that an Arab summit will be held before the beginning of the second phase of the peace conference. However, an Arab meeting could be held at a still unspecified level. It could be at ministerial or even higher level. We believe that is extremely important and we hope that such a meeting is held before the bilateral talks begin. So far there is no final agreement regarding such Arab meetings. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] In view of the major difference between your interpretation of UN resolutions and Israel's, what will you do in the bilateral negotiations?

['Abbas] We depend on the U.S. interpretation of these resolutions, which is different from Israel's. So why should we not go and talk and prove to Israel that we have rights? If our interpretation of UN resolutions and Israel's were identical, there would be no need to negotiate with it. We are negotiating with Israel and trying to reach some common understanding. What helps us in this connection is what the United States has given us in terms of assurance documents in which it acknowledged that Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan are occupied Arab territories. Furthermore, UN Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, and 608 have described them as occupied territories. This only confirms that Israel's erroneous interpretation will not hold much longer.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the agenda for the second round of the peace conference? Do you have anything to demand of Israel before that round begins?

['Abbas] Yes, we demand that before the Palestinian agenda is submitted for discussion, Israel show some response on two essential points. The first is a suspension of settlement activities inasmuch as they are illegal; and the second is to adopt confidence-building measures between us and Israel, such as an end to arrests, repression, the demolition of houses, and the expropriation of land, and the reopening of schools and universities, and so on. We have a long list. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What if Israel still refuses to stop its settlement activities and to adopt the confidence-building measures that you mentioned?

['Abbas] Then we will take a different stance. If Shamir's refusal continues, the answer would quite simply be that we would not agree on anything and would therefore achieve no results.

[Abu-Husayn] Could we say that the fact that a date has not yet been set for bilateral negotiations (the second round) is partly a result of the Palestinian calls for Israeli confidence-building measures?

['Abbas] Setting the date and venue has nothing to do with the Paletinian confidence-building demands. Agreement could be reached on that through the U.S. Administration. The date currently proposed for bilateral negotiations is sometime after 17 November. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] It is clear that all the Arab parties, including Palestine as well as the international community, are confident that the United States is serious about promoting a political solution to the problems of the Middle East. What are the indications of that seriousness, as far as you are concerned?

['Abbas] In politics there is no such thing as confidence. We hear clear and specific statements from the U.S. Administration that it is serious in its quest for a settlement, and we take such talk seriously, particularly when the United States says that in the new world order it wants to see an end to the hotbeds of tension in the Middle East and that it is seeking solutions to the Palestinian and other problems. The Palestinian side should trust that U.S. desire, particularly since the United States has given us all this in writing, in exchanged messages. Furthermore, we believe that the United States has made real and tangible efforts in pursuit of peace—efforts made by the U.S. President and his secretary of state, James Baker. So we can say that the U.S. Administration is serious. We have responded to that seriousness, but nobody knows its extent unless it all leads to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What is your position on the stance adopted by the Popular Front [PFLP] led by George Habash in opposition to all current peace steps?

['Abbas] George Habash has frozen his membership of the PLO. That move means nothing to us. It is not the first time that such a thing has happened. Back in the seventies George Habash's representative withdrew from the PLO because he heard rumors about U.S.-PLO contacts. He withdrew again in 1983 and 1984. That kind of thing continued, but the PLO did not collapse because of his absence or presence. Still, we respect his views and we do not deny Habash or anyone else his views. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] It is said that the Palestinian-Israeli bilateral negotiations could go ahead despite the difficulties and could even produce an agreement before Jordan and Syria reach agreements with Israel. What do you think?

['Abbas] First, Jordan has territory north of the border and in the South—areas reckoned in hundreds of kilometers—and it could find a solution in their regard with Israel, as could Syria (over the Golan Heights). I do not believe that the Palestinian side will sign any agreement before Jordan and Syria reach solutions with Israel, particularly since the situation is equally difficult on all fronts. The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are not expected to proceed while the others stop. Everyone is going to the bilateral negotiations to see what happens.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the intifadah? Is it true that Israel has asked you to suspend it in return for a suspension of the settlement process?

['Abbas] We have not heard anyone in Israel making such a request for "a suspension of the intifadah in return for a suspension of settlements." That is why we have not discussed this matter, and we will not discuss it at all, because the intifadah is a result of the occupation and will continue until the occupation ends.

[Abu-Husayn] That leaves the PLO's role in the next phase of the peace process. Will it be asked to join the negotiations?

['Abbas] The PLO is the sole legitimate framework and authority for all Palestinian people without exception. Absolutely nothing that has to do with the Palestinians will proceed without the PLO's approval.

[Abu-Husayn] Then why has Sa'ib 'Urayqat been excluded from the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations just because he said that he was designated by the PLO?

['Abbas] That is totally untrue. Sa'ib 'Urayqat is still a member of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. He has not been, and will not be, excluded.

[Abu-Husayn] Are the reports about the transfer of the PLO headquarters from Tunis to Syria true?

['Abbas] That, too, is totally untrue. The sources which spread that rumor are intelligence sources, and their aim is to promote such an idea which has not been discussed by us or the Syrians. Since there has been no official PLO statement to that effect, the report is just an air balloon. All that has happened is that the PLO has sent a delegation to Syria to discuss opening a number of Fatah offices in Syria. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Interviewed on Outcome of Madrid Talks

NC1811141191 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Nov 91 p 14-17

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by AL-MUSAWWAR correspondent Dr. Salwa Abu-Si'dah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Si'dah] During your latest working tour you visited Amman, Latakia [site of presidential palace in Syria], Sanaa, Khartoum, and Cairo. What are the most important issues you discussed in your talks at these five capitals?

['Arafat] I evaluated the outcome of the first round of the Madrid conference and discussed formulating the rules and points of understanding for the second round of talks that may take place in Washington or in a European capital. I also discussed ways of reaching a unified Arab concept to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation, particularly the fanatical extremist positions Shamir declared in his speech at the Madrid conference. That speech is considered to be anachronistic. [passage omitted]

[Abu Si'dah] During your visits to the five capitals, did you focus in each capital on certain specific priorities or issues, such as Jerusalem?

['Arafat] The Jerusalem issue was pivotal in talks with all parties. I discussed this issue as a main topic with all officials in the five capitals. [passage omitted]

[Abu Si'dah] How would you assess the Madrid conference for the Arabs, Palestinians, and the two cosponsors?

['Arafat] On the Arab level, I can say that the Arabs have won this round. The ugly image that Shamir gave through his anachronistic speech became clear to the world. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Si'dah] What about your assessment of the United States and the Soviet Union, the cosponsors?

['Arafat] I believe that just convening the conference was a success for both countries because the invitation was extended by President Gorbachev and President Bush. Their cosponsorship boosted the conference's success. No doubt, the U.S. role was more outstanding than the Soviet one, but the Soviet position was clearer regarding Arab and Palestinian rights. The U.S. role was more dynamic than the Soviet one and we had expected this in view of the current circumstances in the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

[Abu Si'dah] We heard a few days ago that the United States may resume its dialogue with the PLO, as your adviser Dr. Nabil Sha'th stated after the conference.

['Arafat] This is what Dr. Nabil Sha'th expects. I would like to know how the Soviet Union can resume its diplomatic relations with Israel while the United States fails to resume the dialogue with the PLO. I am not asking for diplomatic relations, only dialogue. The United States has not resumed the dialogue with us. This affirms that the United States is still using double standards of international legitimacy and for dealing with the parties to the conflict. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Si'dah] What do you think of the view that Shamir's personality is not suited to opening a new chapter of peace and that the same applies to the group working with him?

['Arafat] I have explained this in my statement. [not further specified] They truly do not seek peace. They only want to swallow up lands, build more settlements, and bring in immigrants to expand their state from the Nile to the Euphrates. These are their sick dreams, their superstitious dreams. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Si'dah] What must the United States do to play an effective role in the next stage, because it is difficult to expect it to be fair or to use the same standard for the two disputing parties?

['Arafat] What fairness? Did the United States and the West implement the UN resolutions on Palestine as they did in the Gulf? This was just a question. It is no longer a question, but a challenge put to the U.S. Administration and President Bush. Bush sent 500,000 troops and a military armada [preceding word in English] to implement UN resolutions. Will he follow the same practice—if not by military might at least through economic or political pressure—to force Israel, which is occupying Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese territory, to implement UN resolutions?

[Abu-Si'dah] Some believe it is inconceivable that the Palestinian or Arab side will adopt a hardline stand in the next stage but that the fundamentalists, including Palestinian fundamentalists, will. What do you think?

['Arafat] Let us be frank. Were the fundamentalists present in Madrid? They were not. We are speaking about Arab or Palestinian fundamentalists while forgetting that there are more extreme Israelis sitting at the negotiating table in Madrid saying that Israel extends from the Nile to the Euphrates and there can be no Christianity or Islam in Jerusalem. Is there anything more extreme than this?

[Abu-Si'dah] Do you believe that the fundamentalists will make a move in the next stage, as some expect?

['Arafat] I say they will indeed. They have a right to move when the negotiations and the peace endeavors fail. The United States, Europe, and the entire world must realize that should the peace steps fail, the region will explode. If it did, they should blame themselves, because nobody believes the situation will not explode if Israel takes the land, occupies countries, Judaizes the Christian and Muslim holy places, and declares that Jerusalem is the capital of the Israel state from the Nile to the Euphrates. I warn that unless the peace conference reaches a solution, the region will explode. We are not demanding the impossible. We are demanding the implementation of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

[Abu-Si'dah] Is it true that there are more than 10 organizations within the Palestinian movement that are against the PLO's peaceful line and that rejected the idea of going to the Madrid conference, and if so, how influential or dangerous are they to the current peace line?

['Arafat] There are 10 organizations that met in Tehran, but the fact is they cannot be described as organizations in the true sense of the word. Some of them are just names or small groups, while others have nothing to do with Palestinian activities. Hizballah, for instance, has no connection whatsoever with Palestinian activities, but it issued a statement and distributed it in Beirut. These are nothing but names ye have devised, ye and your fathers. [Koranic verse] However, we are practicing a true democracy.

[Abu-Si'dah] What influence do these organizations have out in the street?

['Arafat] Have not all the masses throughout Palestine come out in support of the Palestinian delegation and in support of the political decision made by the Palestine National Council and the Central Council? Unfortunately, I know that some Gulf Arab countries are spending on these fundamentalists inside the occupied territories out of spite for the PLO. Iran is playing the same role to cover up for its position during the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Si'dah] How true are reports that clashes and fighting are taking place between Fatah and Hamas elements in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] Such reports are broadcast by Israeli radio and are unfortunately repeated by Arab radios and the press. How about the recent elections in Hebron, Gaza, Jerusalem, and Nabulus for the chambers of commerce or for bodies representing farmers, doctors, the Red Crescent, and students? Don't these sectors represent the Palestinian people? Haven't the people who took part in these elections proven their confidence in the PLO leadership?

[Abu-Si'dah] But it has been reported that the fighting has escalated to the point where the quantities of weapons being sold, even by the Israeli merchants, have recently increased?

['Arafat] Do you think Palestinians do not have weapons? This is ridiculous. Palestinians have weapons, but they have not used them yet because of the Palestinian leadership's decision not to use weapons in the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Si'dah] What about coordination between the PLO and Palestinians in the territories?

['Arafat] What coordination? We are one body and one command. All the attempts by Israel, the United States, and some Arabs to cause a division in the one body have failed. They have failed to starve Gaza by withholding aid to it and the martyrs' children.

[Abu-Si'dah] What about dealing with the unified leadership of the intifadah?

['Arafat] The unified leadership is a wing in this Palestinian command, like the leadership in Lebanon, in the West Bank, or in Gaza.

[Abu-Si'dah] In the PLO Executive Committee's meeting in Tunis which voted in favor of participation in the peace conference, did you discuss all the issues submitted to the committee? It has been reported that some of the issues were not discussed. Is this true?

['Arafat] First, the voting on the decision to go to the peace conference was 79 percent in favor. This represents our democracy. We do not have 99.9 percent of all votes. As for the issues raised at the meeting, we discussed them all without exception. What was disclosed is what we wanted to disclose. Nothing was announced, for example, about the decisions of the military committee. Likewise the economic committee. Its decisions were not announced. Only the political decision regarding participation in the conference was announced. As for the higher intifadah committee, we only announced part of its statement.

[Abu-Si'dah] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], is the call for your replacement as leader of the PLO, particularly after the Gulf crisis, on the agenda?

['Arafat] Who dares say this to the Palestinian people? The Palestinian people have fought for the right to make decisions independently. No Palestinian child will allow anyone—whoever he may be or whatever power it may be—to tell him who his leaders should be. Whoever does not like it can drink the seven seas.

[Abu-Si'dah] But we hear that this is the request of some Arabs, and that funds have been allocated for this purpose.

['Arafat] This is true, and funds by the millions are still being spent for this purpose. I have not used coercion against my people, as others did. I did not come on board a tank or as a result of an outside decision. I have been directly and legally elected by the Palestinian people. I wait for the day when the people will replace me with another leader so I can rest.

[Abu-Si'dah] What about relations between the PLO and the Gulf states?

['Arafat] It is hard to imagine that relations with Kuwait will be mended, because what was committed against the Palestinian people in Kuwait has not even been committed by Israel against Palestinians in the occupied territories. Palestinians in Kuwait have been mistreated. Some 2,500 were killed and some 12,000 have been detained. It is difficult for Palestinians to forget what happened to their sons in Kuwait.

I derive my popularity from my people and not from any other country. I was with President Husni Mubarak today. He told me that one of the Israelis told him that 'Arafat must be replaced. President Mubarak responded by saying: 'Arafat in turn asks you to replace Shamir. [passage omitted]

[Abu—Si'dah] What are your reservations on the Camp David accords' appendix on Palestinian self-rule?

['Arafat] We have a clear case. I have never agreed to self-rule, not even transitionally. If I were to accept a phase of self- rule, it would only be implemented after an Israeli withdrawal, as happened in Namibia, or under the authority of multinational forces. We are not discussing self-rule, or the theory that it applies to population rather than the land, or the three-year transitional period. These are Israeli ideas that we will not accept, even if the Americans do. We have repeatedly rejected these ideas. The 25 points our delegation presented in Madrid rejected these ideas. We have also clearly rejected these ideas in memoranda presented to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, to the Soviets, to the Europeans, and to the United Nations. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi made this clear at the conference.

[Abu-Si'dah] What phase do you expect to be the most difficult?

['Arafat] We expect a lot of trouble with this enemy because it wants all the land—not only Palestinian land, but Arab land as well. We expect difficult talks because no pressure is being applied on the enemy.

[Abu-Si'dah] The Palestinian delegation to the negotiations is led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. The consultative delegation is headed by brother Faysal al-Husayni. Another consultative Palestinian delegation was following up, including some PLO leaders....

['Arafat] No comment.

[Abu-Si'dah] Do you believe that Egyptian-Palestinian relations have returned to normal and that the summer cloud has passed?

['Arafat] Of course the summer cloud has passed. I have been trying to clear the atmosphere of the shadows that were cast on our brotherly ties. The cloud has passed, and everyone now knows that the Egyptian people and president are still firmly behind Palestine, the Palestinian people, the Palestinian cause, and the Jerusalem cause. All Egyptians, foremost President Mubarak, are committed to the Palestinian cause.

Executive Committee on Settlements, Judaization

LD1911135891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has called for the need to provide [as heard] immediate international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in accordance with the Geneva Accords. Last night at the conclusion of its meetings, which went on for five days under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, it demanded that the building of settlements and the crime of Judaizing the city of Jerusalem should be stopped.

WAFA pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee reviewed the results of the Madrid peace conference and the results of the contacts made by the Palestinian President in some Arab capitals.

[Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 19 November in a related report notes: "The PLO reiterated today the need to stop the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories before resuming the peace negotiations with Israel. After five days of meetings by the PLO Executive Committee in Tunisia, PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said that the issue of stopping the construction of settlements will never be a subject for discussion, and the matter should be settled before the resumption of the negotiations at the end of this month."]

Urges International Protection for Palestinians

LD2011093491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Yesterday the PLO Executive Committee concluded its meetings under Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, which lasted five days.

The Executive Committee examined the developments and positive results of the Madrid conference, especially the high competence that had characterized our delegation and the strong commitment in presenting the Palestinian national cause for the first time before such an important international gathering. It also viewed the unity of vision and political direction displayed by the Arab delegations, and the translation of this into full coordination among themselves.

The Executive Committee addressed a salute of respect and admiration to our steadfast people garrisoned inside the occupied homeland, for the way they rallied to our Palestinian delegation which is committed to the fundamentals of the Palestinian national struggle—an end to the occupation, the withdrawal of the forces of the occupying enemy, the right to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Executive Committee highly evaluated the Palestinians' manifestations and demonstrations of peace that spread throughout the occupied homeland and expressed the Palestinian choice of peace, alongside the continuation and escalation of the blessed intifadah of our people in confrontation of the occupation and the occupier. The Executive Committee also addressed a salute of respect and admiration to the masses of our Palestinian people in the diaspora, especially southern Lebanon, who are facing this bestial Zionist aggression against our camps, and to the steadfast southern Lebanese villagers.

The Executive Committee thanked all the sister and friendly countries for their support for our Palestinian people and delegation, naming in particular the host country Spain for the warm welcome granted by its friendly people to all levels of our delegation, and the important facilities provided by its friendly government for the success of the conference.

The Executive Committee studied the next steps, especially the file of the expected bilateral negotiations, and conducted an in-depth study of the plans, schemes, and ideas for the crystallization of an Arab, regional, and international effort that guarantees the Arab right and the sacred right of our people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of their own. It also studied the plans and ideas pertaining to this issue and its basic considerations, especially the urgent need to provide immediate international protection for our people in place of the occupation authority, in accordance with the Geneva accords, and also the importance of calling a halt to the building of settlements and to the crime of Judaizing holy Jerusalem, which the Zionist enemy is still carrying out. The Executive Committee also dealt with the various issues pertaining to this matter.

During this session Brother President Commander Abu-'Ammar presented a full picture of the outcome of his successful tour of a number of Arab capitals and the results of the Arab and international consultations carried out by PLO delegations. He also reviewed preparations for the Islamic summit conference due to be held in Senegal early next month, as well as preparations for the UN session on the Palestinian problem, which is to begin soon, and for the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Nusaybah, 'Arafat Confer on Political Committees

TA2011103791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Nov 91 p 11

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] Dr. Sari Nusaybah, who was officially appointed by the PLO last week to head the committee entrusted with preparing the political committees in the territories, met with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis to coordinate positions before putting the committees into operation.

The committees' stated goal is to support the Palestinian delegation in its negotiations with Israel. The announcement of their establishment caused an uproar in the territories.

Some residents consider the committees as having been established to impede Faysal al-Husayni's actions, while others regard the committees as part of the preparations for self-government. 'Arafat is apparently forming a mass political movement for the elections scheduled to be held in the territories during one of the stages of the bilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

AL-QUDS—Shamir Speaking 'Language of Yesterday'

TA1911201191 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The New Language of Peace!"]

[Excerpts] The remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the United States yesterday in which he said: "I regret that three weeks after the peace conference no Arab leader has shown a desire for peace and for meeting with us," and that there is no alternative but "for the United States to arrange the future negotiations" arouse surprise and amazement, though this accusation by Shamir against the Arab side is not new. What arouses amazement is the timing of these remarks, which are aimed at U.S. public opinion.

Shamir's statement comes at a time when efforts are being made to convene the next round of the bilateral negotiations. What can clearly be understood from this statement is that it is an attempt to preempt events and place the responsibility for the disruption of these negotiations, which have not begun yet, on the Arab side, or at least lay the ground for justifying the failure of the negotiations.

Shamir is fully aware that the entire world—including U.S. public opinion—has welcomed the Arab and Palestinian position that was presented at the peace conference, and has expressed appreciation for the Arab and Palestinian response to participate in the conference and the subsequent negotiations on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. He is also aware that the United States believes that the continuation of the settlement policy in the occupied territories constitutes the major obstacle today to the continuation of the peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

If Shamir believes that "the desire for peace" means that the Arabs should relinquish their legitimate rights which have been acknowledged by the international community or that the Palestinian people should relinquish their national identity and inalienable rights, foremost of which the right to self-determination, then he has a real problem not only with the Arab nation and the Palestinian people, but also with the international community, which understands that the main elements for making peace comprise an end to Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands and the realization of the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights.

The accusations uttered by Shamir are incompatible with the language of the era and do not take into consideration the immense developments taking place in our new world. The language of yesterday, which has been a main reason for maintaining the region in the cycle of wars and destruction, is inconsistent with the language of peace and the real desire to make peace. It is this desire that drives one to seek ways to advance the peace process instead of seeking outdated pretexts to justify hardline positions that reject peace and, ultimately, to justify the disruption of the negotiations. This is something that is very regrettable and that confronts the international community with the challenge of a real peace.

Shaykh Sa'ih on 'Theft' of Islamic Court Documents

JN2011090191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 18

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker 'Abd-al- Hamid al-Sa'ih has warned that the theft from the Islamic court in Jerusalem by Israeli police and border guards may be a prelude to the demolishing of the blessed al-Aqsa mosque.

The theft was perhaps meant to sound out the reactions of the Arab and Islamic worlds before committing a more serious act against the al-Aqsa mosque, he said.

Stealing documents and records from the Islamic court is unprecedented in modern as well as ancient history, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said. The act, therefore, should be countered with full strength, and the occupation authorities should be forced to return the stolen documents.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih added: Jordan and the PLO are extremely concerned about the Israeli criminal act because it threatens Arab rights in holy Jerusalem. He did not rule out the possibility of requesting a UN Security Council session to discuss the incident and take the appropriate measures to force Israel to return all stolen documents.

In a press conference he held in the PNC office at noon yesterday, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the stolen documents are invaluable. The thieves stole about 600 records of selling and buying contracts and endowment documents for both individuals and charitable organizations.

These documents are the only reference to prove the rights of Muslims and Christians to their endowments that go back to 550 years, whether in Jerusalem or other areas in Palestine. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Ministry Urges 'Restraint' Over Lockerbie Charges

LD1911232991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Algerian Foreign Ministry has called for caution and restraint following the U.S. accusations against Libya following the publication of the preliminary results of the investigation into the operations in 1988 and 1989 against two civilian planes belonging to Pan Am and UTA. The Algerian Foreign Ministry said in its statement that Algeria, while expressing anew its indignation at these operations that cost the lives of hundreds of innocent people, is satisfied with the announcement by the Libyan Ministry of Justice of the opening of an investigation aimed at establishing the truth concerning these operations.

Algeria emphasized the need to comply totally with the rules and principles of international legitimacy and without prejudgement.

Court Rejects Front's Request on Imprisoned Leaders

LD1911120391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by correspondent Mohsen Slimani]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the important thing is that the court has made a final decision to reject the request of the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] lawyers and to consider that the ruling is compatible with Article 89 of the electoral law. We have to point out that that ruling has brought reactions from the FIS solicitors, who believe that Article 89 was designed especially to close the doors to the FIS leadership.

Abdelkader Hachani, who attended the session this morning, did not comment on the issue and said that the stand of the Islamic Salvation Front will be made known later within the framework of the leading bodies of the FIS.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Assembly, Council Session

NC1511064591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0749 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council: Our meeting today follows celebrations of Egypt's greatest and most splendid achievements. We recall their good memories and major events. In view of the lesson we learned, we measure our sound step in construction, democracy, and peace. This year God bestows his light on great October with the safe return of our valiant men from the Gulf after a just and noble mission that crowned our heads with pride.

Coinciding with these two events, our meeting at the outset of your new session shows we are confident in our ability to achieve the goals of Egyptian renaissance. Those who scored the glorious October victory, siding with right and justice, embody a great people's will to reject defeat and oppression. They can meet the challenge and make miracles. The October war remains forever a beacon to light the future's path. Its light will reveal our ability and we will become more convinced that we can bear the renaissance's burdens. The October war revealed this great people's mettle and strength, returning to every Egyptian the confidence that he can build a new future taking Egypt into a new age. He can do so if he works hard with a heart full of faith, for the sake of God and homeland, if he brings himself to account before others, if he takes care of the coming generations' interest, and is aware that his progress depends on the progress of all Egypt.

It is with this spirit that Egypt achieved the great October victory. It is with the same spirit that we can achieve the renaissance's goals. The October war saw the entire homeland rise to reject defeat and humiliation. This is the heroic epic's lesson, exemplifying the cohesion between the people and its armed forces, which fought the war with an unconquerable spirit and a unique belief that invaders cannot make Egypt submit.

Brothers and sisters. Once again, our people's historic accomplishment in the Gulf war affirmed the Egyptian sacrifice as a benevolent, everlasting, and torrential fountain. The entire people and nationalist forces, except a meager minority which broke away from nationalist unanimity, backed their armed forces as they supported right and justice to protect a fraternal people from iniquity and oppression. These forces raised Egypt's banners high, proving to the world that we are people of values and principles, and affirming to all brothers that Egypt will always be a bastion of safety for everyone, that Egypt knows the meaning of fraternity and solidarity and rejects falsehoods and whims, and that Egypt does not bargain over a right, but supports the noble and honest.

The Egyptian people's stand with their brothers in the Gulf since the first hours of aggression was certain and self-explanatory, dictated by the values of a noble people who know the meaning of justice and civilization; a people not deceived by calumny or falsehood no matter how concealed under false slogans or fallacious papers.

Anyone who knows this people's essence and mantle could predict its stand and resolution, because noble peoples' stands do not stem from a vacuum or whim, but from what has been established in their nationalist conscience from the heritage, values, and traditions that

accomplished their nobility. Sending Egyptian forces to help their brothers in the Gulf contain unbridled aggression and to help liberate Kuwait was clear and inevitable, not tolerating reluctance or ambiguity.

This day last month our faithful people celebrated the return of our valiant sons who participated in the noble mission that won the world's admiration. They were an example of offering and sacrifice as they carried out their national duty. Their military performance was an example as they helped contain a danger set to bluster the whole Arab world. They demonstrated this great people's values and those of Egyptian militarism, which has never participated in aggression or repression, throughout the ages guarding and defending noble goals and objectives. Their martyrs are the martyrs of duty, who fell in the most honest and greatest battles, never dropping the homeland's banner.

Our meeting today fills me with confidence and trust that this great people, proud and dignified, heroic and miracle-making, will accomplish Egypt's comprehensive renaissance.

How great are the people challenging the storm with high heads, forging ahead on their march, never losing their way, vision, or goal! How great are the people when their soul rises to the call of God and homeland, unleashing their latent energy to conquer the impossible!

Brothers and sisters: The people have followed your dignified Assembly's efforts in the past legislative session with appreciation and interest. Your efforts led to basic and important national legislation, and you soundly and effectively established the People's Assembly's control over government actions, creating new parliamentary traditions ensuring that members have the necessary qualifications. You carried out your national and pan-Arab mission admirably, and devoted more than 90 sessions to homeland issues according to the priorities affecting the masses, those with primary interest in any national action. The various People's Assembly committees were involved in continued work and discussions. They confronted urgent problems, always safeguarding the homeland's supreme interests and citizens' legitimate interests. Your achievements in legislation and control were bountiful and sastisfactory, promising further achievements in future sessions.

Your principled position on the Gulf crisis truly expressed a time-honored legislative establishment's responsible view. Part of such an establishment's responsibilities is to assert respect for legitimacy and law. Your position reflected Egypt's national conscience and demonstrated a mature legislative mind that refuses to separate the essential requisites of national laws and the principles of high values that demand respect for legtimacy and international laws.

Your dignified Assembly's discussions took place as part of a realistic view of Egypt's problems and needs. They were committed to sound democratic exercise, enabling everyone to express their views freely and permitting honest voices to rise uncontrolled and uncensored whether or not they were supporters or opponents—because we are all patriotic Egyptians. Our views may differ, but ultimately their aim is the homeland's interests and progress. The democratic exercise seen and heard by the people disclosed to the doubters that democracy is enhanced by participation, not by standing behind walls or in the spectators' seats. The exercise of democracy demonstrated to the negative thinkers, who harbor ulterior motives and lag behind under flimsy and fabricated pretexts [applause], that the problem lies in their lack of self-confidence. This motivated them to back away from waging an indisputably honest battle.

These people have promulgated many fallacious claims that a new People's Assembly will be formed, its task limited to blindly supporting the government in all matters, right and wrong. They alleged that honest and courageous voices will be absent from this purported assembly and that it will have no power to take the government to account or question its executive organs' actions.

This is far from true. The sessions are seen by the people, who witness your freedom to carry out your national task. The meetings' minutes expose the falsity of their allegations, express all sides' views, record many deputies' courage in discussing important national issues, and repeatedly prove that there is opportunity for free dialogue. This opportunity is guaranteed by democratic practice in a healthy climate, enabling the entire assembly to listen to every view.

Brothers, sisters: I do not need to say that I am the firmest believer in democracy, most committed in word and deed. [applause] I emphatically believe that democracy alone can ensure proper participation, encourage all initiatives, and help national endeavor find the right path. My profound faith in democracy proceeds not merely from its theories but equally from my deep conviction that democracy is the best method for arranging the country's political situation, surrounding it with a strong wall that will safeguard the homeland against upheavals.

What pains me most is that some of us continue to see democracy as a disfigured metamorphosis of chaotic behavior and stances, not governed by nationally agreed checks or considering the homeland's supreme interests. Democracy is not an empty mold. It is not fallacious, with vacuous slogans that dress calumny as the right to deviate from the public good. To these I say: Stop professing democracy. Stop disdaining the masses' intelligence and ability to distinguish between right and wrong and between the precious and cheap. Democracy is not a weapon used by a specific group to impose its choices on the masses or to terrorize the majority that has the constitutional and moral right to make decisions. Democracy rejects dictatorship and the forceful imposition of views by the majority or minority. Democracy is believing in national objectives that the majority accepts. It is complying with the masses' wish, because

the nation cannot unanimously agree to pursue wrong. The majority's will is united only on right and good objectives. The nation has entrusted us all with pursuing the homeland's good. Democracy is a method of acting and performing taking into account the country's social circumstances, providing the people the best means to attain their legitimate aspirations. It safeguards the homeland's progress and shields it from dangers and storms.

Brothers and sisters. Democracy is not chaotic behavior or stands, or distancing from the national consensus. It is not a demagogic method of falsifying the masses' priorities. It is not the pursuit of narrowly based interests that do not benefit the masses. It is not squandering time and efforts in futile stupidities. It is not the fabrication of illusionary battles to divert attention from the battles of construction and building. Democracy is the serious and responsible exercise within the framework of the national goals on which there is a national consensus.

The complexities of our era require each of us to perform harmoniously with the substance, form, intellect, and course of democracy. It is the responsibility of each of us to start with himself before looking at others. The people want those who give solutions, not those who pacify them with sweet words. They want a group that believes in God and the homeland, that is true to itself and the masses, and that works to solve the people's problems and alleviate their sufferings. The people do not want those who seek to gain from their pains and worries or who exploit their suffering for the sake of selfish intentions and positions which do not benefit the people and reveal obvious whims and headstrong recklessness, which do not respect God's and the homeland's rights.

The people want all those who hold public office in all executive and legislative organs and official and public establishments to be honest and sincere, because public action is a national trust and duty. Only those with clean hands and noble hearts can shoulder this responsibility. [applause]

The people want—and we all are with the people—a unity of aims that protects the homeland's course and a creative variety of views on the ways and means, a variety that enriches the practice and develops the performance. We are all with the people.

Brothers and sisters. You represent the nation's conscience and the people's feelings. You express its stands and legitimate ambitions. You are the people's deputies, who are nearest to their pulse and the most capable of discerning their pains and dreams. [applause] You are the elite which the masses look upon as the ideal and example because you are carrying the mission of legislation, which is the noblest form of national action and the one most committed to the public interest. You draw the line between what is legitimate and what is not, what is permissible and what is not, and what is legal and what is not.

Your national responsibilities include controlling the executive authority's work, which requires objectivity, impartiality, and avoiding frailty, so that the people's representative can conduct his mission with dignity. He will win the people's trust as long as he is responsible and his reputation remains free of flaws and criticisms.

You are the people's representatives. Your role is to carry out the duty responsibly, without fearing blame when you are right and without being controlled by a supervisor, other than the watchful eye of God. [applause] The sounds of your consciences under parliament's dome are part of Egypt's national conscience. The nation's higher interests are shaped and the national march's right goals are defined as your consciences concur.

You guard social justice, the established basis of government. Your duty is to preserve social solidarity among society's various sections and to undertake your responsibilities justly, each one according to his ability. Social justice among the various sections of the people balances society's march and maintains the nation's unity by distancing it from feud and dissent, enhancing the social fabric's cohesion. Do not let up in this duty, which is part of almighty God's teachings; deviate from it; or play it down in government.

Brothers and sisters. In the wake of stirring events in Europe, some European intellectuals and politicians view the democratic course as linking three elements which have secured these communities' progress: Application of democracy; broad development; and national security. This new theory of democracy came from unprecedented developments that changed concepts, previously regarded as inarguable axioms. These axioms could not be approached or touched. Mixing political democracy's elements and social justice is not enough to guarantee these societies' progress, unless they are linked to preserving national security. Any disorder among these three elements or in their fine balance would endanger higher national interests and wreck the nation's social fabric.

We, the peoples of the Third World, perhaps need more than others to pay attention to these issues to formulate a new vision consistent with our circumstances and needs, whose concepts are consistent with trends in contemporary world thinking. This is because we are experiencing these three problems, and no more can any one live on an island, detached from world events and developments.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. Since I assumed the honor of responsibility in October 1981, I realized that my primary task was to comprehensively reform the Egyptian economy, uproot the causes of the illness and establish the basis for a strong economy that could develop comprehensively, responding to our great people's legitimate aspirations. The economic conference in February 1982 came within this context. The aim was to agree on

signs to emerge from the Egyptian economic crisis, which has long suffered a serious structural defect caused by our consuming more than we produce, importing more than we export, and borrowing more than we can repay. I do not have to repeat figures of which you are aware and which reveal this serious problem's dimensions.

This attention to the Egyptian economy did not stem only from my view of the economy's basic and increasing role in defending national interests as one of the most important strengths of the state and society. It was due equally to my realizing its importance to the Egyptian citizen and its effect on formulating his vision of his present and future, shaping his hopes and dreams. I continue to feel the Egyptian citizen's concerns, sympathizing with the heavy burden he shoulders with patience and endurance, trying to work hard, fulfill his duty, and maintain his deep faith that God will reward those who work well. I share the feeling with every Egyptian family head as he struggles night and day to provide his family's needs, suffering price rises, irrespective of the domestic and foreign needs which justify price increases. I share every Egyptian father's feeling when I find thousands of capable youths unable to find work to express their potential and create their own future. It is hard for me to think how frustrated they must feel. This, while the country is deprived of their ability to produce and build.

I am aware that every Egyptian home is suffering from the problems of all stages of education, beginning with registration right up to when the student graduates and begins to fight the battle of life. I know these problems well and endeavor with all my strength to urge official and private institutions to tackle them with radical solutions. This is what I think about when I consider national work priorities and take a close look at the future of Egypt, which God has endowed with a flow of his graces and with a people unparalleled in their excellence and nobility and in their deep affiliation with their civilization, nation, and land. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, this explains my deep interest in economic reform and my eagerness to place it on top of the list of national priorities over the past few years. Economic reform means the ideal use of a society's resources and energies; increased job opportunities; reduced unemployment; improved educational, health, and social services; and genuine progress in all sectors of society.

As you remember, at first I focused on two fundamental issues necessary for reform: rebuilding the basic structure necessary for improving the process of production and settling the Third World's debts, particularly Egypt's. Despite the difficulty and the long time needed to implement it, the inevitable beginning required a comprehensive overhaul of the foundation of the economic structure, including services, roads, transportation, ports, airports, electrical power stations, and water lines. It was impossible to embark on genuine development with a fragile infrastructure lacking the necessary means of production.

We made a colossal achievement in record time, perhaps Egypt's greatest achievement in its modern history. You are aware of this achievement, which covered all sectors related to production, distribution, and services. The boom in services has become a reality the people experience in their daily life and take for granted in a manner that could make us forget the shabby conditions before the reform.

Regarding the issue of debts, it has been my great preoccupation and the main focus of my attention since 1983, when I initiated intensive contacts with the leaders of friendly countries to convince them of the need to reach a radical, comprehensive solution to this problem that went beyond the stop-gap measures of rescheduling. Rescheduling does not touch the core of the problem, but can actually increase the burden of debts and their service and aggravate the situation every year. I was eager to highlight the special importance of this problem in my speech before your esteemed council on 10 November 1988. I said: The time has come for the international community to tackle this problem decisively. Not only because this confrontation was an imperative condition in enabling developing countries to fight the battle of development that is considered vital for their survival, but also to maintain the required balance in the international economic order and boost the strength of developing countries to pursue trade and economic cooperation with affluent countries.

God's graciousness toward us ensured the last assembly session witnessed a praiseworthy initiative beginning a radical solution to this problem. The U.S. president made a courageous proposal to Congress calling for writing off all of Egypt's military debts and calling on other countries to take tangible steps in the same direction. [applause]

The fraternal Arab countries and friendly European states immediately responded to this call. Thus, Egypt's debts were reduced by $21.7 billion. We had been hoping for this gigantic step. We must respond gratefully to these countries' leaders and peoples, who greatly appreciated Egypt's special position among nations and peoples. [applause]

We affirm, out of loyalty, that other friendly states, not economically capable of such gigantic steps, have kindly moved the same way, undoubtedly contributing to easing debts. We appreciate the gesture, demonstrating sublime values and genuine traditions. I should probably mention the friendly PRC in particular. [applause]

What is important is that economic reform continued uninterrupted within the limits of the government's basis and that it did not infringe upon social justice.

Brothers and sisters, we can define the reform:

Phase one—preparing the infrastructure for economic development, taking up a major part of the past decade. Phase two—securing a suitable atmosphere for increasing economic activity and private sector participation, after eliminating the contradiction in minds that separated it from the public sector.

Despite the private sector resuming production only a few years back, its efforts call for optimism. It has established hundreds of factories large and small in new cities and throughout Egypt, some of which employ the most modern technology. These factories produce commodities to meet much of the domestic market's needs as well as export. The private sector also played a major part in reclaiming desert land and in promoting tourism to augment the country's foreign currency revenue. It also proved that it has begun to understand its social responsibility and duty to promote society.

Despite all this, we must admit that we have not utilized all this sector's capabilities. Restrictions and handicaps remain, and it is the state's duty to ease them because the private sector is a development partner. It is also responsible for paying its taxes while feeling responsible about its role in promoting the state's revenues so that the state may assume its responsibilities of improving education and health services, which require enormous investment.

The third phase, implementing financial and economic policies shaping the reform and defining its basic features, began in 1987.

The fourth phase, a comprehensive and structural reform, began last year, coinciding with coordinated moves at various levels. The People's Assembly contributed to steering the process and controlling the policies within, and preparing a comprehensive study of the reform and its requirements.

The People's Assembly also put forward proposals and held constructive discussions which shed more light on the compound problem's various points.

Brothers and sisters, in my speech today I would like to concentrate on the outcome of reform measures last year, the first year of the comprehensive, structural reform, so that we may learn the reform's dimensions and assess its performance early so that we may introduce amendments in our people's interests. We commit ourselves only to accomplishing what benefits the general interest and adhere only to what we believe is the best option.

A scrupulous look at last year's economic performance proves that we are on the right course: Industrial production increased by 6.08 billion Egyptian pounds; agricultural and industrial goods exports increased by $702 million; the general budget deficit decreased from 14 percent of aggregate 1988-89 local production to 9.6 percent in 1990-91; dollar investments increased by $2.424 billion; local currency deposits rose by 4.504 billion pounds; joint and private venture licenses were granted for 1,187 projects; foreign currency rates steadied, with the Egyptian pound maintaining its value since July 1991, contrary to predictions prior to the new program; and 1.655 billion pounds were procured to finance social fund activities. The fund was set up to create productive work through new projects in the governorates, by helping existing medium and small projects expand, or by implementing an ambitious program of retraining.

These figures clearly show what has been achieved in one year. These are new indicators confirming our move in the right direction, showing that sound gradual reforms will achieve what many countries have failed to do. This does not mean that we are content with what has already been achieved or that we believe nothing could be done better. Our ambitions remain bigger than our achievements, and we have to try harder to bridge the gap between what we hope to fulfill and what can be achieved. We have to work shoulder-to-shoulder, examine the issues objectively and with open minds, and not stubbornly or obstinately insist on demands, or refuse advice, whoever gives it or wherever it originates. We all want the same rights, have a responsiblity to contribute, and are all in the same trench of public duty to seek Egypt's progress and welfare. [applause]

I do not like to speak generally or make statements that serve a transitory and temporary purpose, so I would like to present my views on topics which deserve to be pursued and to which your dignified assembly should attend during your new session. These initial ideas seek to focus this coming year's attention on the following:

1. The third five-year development plan should be drafted soonest. It will cover 1992 to 1997, and enable all executive and legislative bodies, research centers, public and private institutions, and labor and vocational federations to contribute to the draft plan and discuss it thoroughly. This will guarantee that the plan reflects national harmony, to which most Egyptian specialists—and there are many who care about Egypt's future and its people's destiny—contributed. The Assembly's committees could prepare their ideas and proposals for incorporation into the draft plan before it is submitted on 1 May 1992, and not delay your part in charting its guidelines.

2. We must attend to supply-related issues, having attended particularly to areas related to demand during the reform's initial phases. We must pay the greatest attention to increasing agricultural and industrial productivity, and contribute together to working out specific plans and clear programs to achieve this increase within the target. This will help us to be self-sufficient within practical and reasonable limits, to cut down on imports, and to create new employment opportunities.

There was a tangible increase in production last year, as I have just said, but we need a larger increase that will include all sectors.

3. To actively supervise implementation of the program. You have already agreed to liberate public sector companies, reform stalled ones, and ensure that this program

leads to the desired targets, which are: achieving a tangible leap in production and productivity, improving project management, and ensuring a better return for owners and workers.

In this respect, I ask the members of government who took part in supervising these companies to quickly assess the conditions of the companies that they supervise. This is an urgent task. These companies must come under the new conditions organized by the law. Slackness or delay will not be tolerated.

4. To prepare, in cooperation with ministries and other executive departments, a list of national projects that we can seek to finance with the help of Arab and other friendly countries. There must be an adequate separate study for each project.

5. To help create a national plan to absorb more modern technology into various fields so this important responsibility is not left to individual initiative and incidental interpretations. We must emulate countries that have made a great leap in this field in just a few years, especially Asian ones.

6. To follow up on the program to control population growth. Despite the undeniable progress of the past few years, represented by a decreased annual growth rate of 3.4 percent in 1985 to 2.47 percent in 1990, the overall population of Egypt increased by 13.4 million in the past decade. If the present growth rate continues, another 15 million persons will be born by the end of this century. This is a frightening fact that we must all face at the organizational and individual level because it constitutes the greatest challenge facing Egyptian society at this historic turning point.

7. To draw up, in cooperation with the Education Ministry, a radical, integrated comprehensive plan to upgrade and reform education to meet our increased needs and assuage the fear that our children's education is below the standard required for them as individuals and for Egypt as a leading country in the region. We must frankly admit that the educational crisis has begun to reflect on schools, teachers, students, and the curriculum. Even though state and other resources are being exhausted, the results are weak and humble. [applause]

Education is still suffering from quantity at the expense of quality and from the enormous failure to face the requirements of modern times, which are witnessing a revolution in the gathering of information and in the methods and patterns of production. There are shortcoming in our preparation of new generations to confront life's practical challenges, absorb the science of the future, and distinguish truth from falsity.

In the past few years, several attempts have been made to formulate a plan to implement comprehensive reform. Studies and useful papers have been prepared, but the situation will not tolerate further vacillation. We must create and implement an integrated program within a specified period of time. We must devote the next few years to streamlining education and upgrading culture. This great task, which cannot be underestimated in terms of the human and material resources necessary, will determine Egypt's future and its sons' destiny, and it will set the stage for its role in the world of tomorrow.

Brothers and sisters: These are the outlines of the programs that I consider vital and necessary to create a new reality in this great country as we approach the 21st century. As you know, I do not impose specific options, nor do I close the door to new ideas. Every citizen has the right to add new concepts and to alter and revise them. While confronting these major problems, we must not forget that this great people possesses great potential and unique capabilities that we must use and mobilize to the fullest degree.

We have a huge manpower base, whose record is full of achievements and feats. It was the solid foundation on which the great industrialization movement was built after the revolution began. Young people built the high dam. Youth battalions played a key role in preparing the domestic front for the battle of crossing [the Suez Canal] in October 1973. They are now assuming the great national task of transforming Egypt's desert into a green paradise in which the most up-to-date agricultural and irrigation systems are used, thereby giving fruit to Egypt's sons everywhere.

Egypt's youth represent a huge manpower base. They have proved that they are capable of achieving miracles that many consider beyond mankind's ability. The brilliant success in organizing the recent African games has proved that Egypt's youth and children are the striking force and the burning flame that can achieve miracles. [applause]

All that is required is to provide a good administration, a good example, and a sense of pride in belonging to the homeland and zeal toward it. We have many groups of educated specialists in all branches of education and knowledge who can meet the homeland's needs in all fields and who can also help the fraternal and friendly states confront the burdens of development and construction. We have many educated people who have become very famous and are respected and appreciated throughout the world for their excellent output, ethics, and morality. We have a group of people who have excelled in all fields of literature and the arts who sow in society the most sublime values and who promote social awareness with their sound books, objective novels, and plays and movies that help the masses see their way to the future.

We have long-standing institutions in universities, educational institutes, and research centers which, if properly connected to society as a whole, can change the shape of life in Egypt's expansive land.

We have a fair judiciary to which the citizen resorts in all his disputes with full confidence and respect [applause] and with a firm belief that Egypt's judges are its living

conscience, the protectors of justice, passing fair judgement free of whims or prejudice.

We have a capable press that is a mighty force to propagate intellect, express opinion and counteropinion, and reveal the masses' hopes and pains very freely and efficiently.

Above all, we have a genuine, steadfast people [applause] who can confront tribulations with a confident heart and firm determination.

We have stable social peace and security, despite attempts by the group that has deviated from the national consensus and which seeks to jeopardize the country's security, expose it to danger, and harm the tenacity of the domestic front, which is the basis of national action.

The protection of Egypt's security, in the comprehensive strategic sense or in the narrower domestic sense, is a factor that takes the utmost priority on the list of national tasks. No homeland can exist without security, and there can be no construction, progress, or prosperity without a solid domestic front that is invincible against any greedy person, plotter, or saboteur. [applause]

When we talk about national security and glory, our hearts and feelings go out to the sons of the heroic armed forces [applause] the protectors of the dearly beloved homeland, and the bearers of the great mission of defending land and honor, regardless of the sacrifices. Greetings to every officer and soldier who holds a rifle in his right hand and protects peace with his left hand in an immortal march that is an extension of the march of the saints, martyrs, and noble men. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: We also address Egyptian policemen [applause] Egypt's watchful eye, its strong shield, and the rock on which plots of sabotage and destruction—which follow the course of evil, whims, and the devil—crash. [applause] Greetings to every officer, soldier, and member of the Egyptian police force, which has reached the highest standards of experience, efficiency, and alertness, and which maintains its firm traditions and noble values regardless of how ungrateful souls try to deny and negate it. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: The past stage witnessed major regional and international events in which we should be interested and should follow up because they affect our interests and circumstances. They also require us to play an active and prominent role at various levels commensurate with Egypt's weight and status among peoples and nations, and with its responsibility to protect regional security and stability.

The most important event was the peace conference in Madrid at the end of last month, following hard and strenuous efforts by many parties. Through their determination and persistence these parties overcame immense obstacles and difficult problems, obstacles and problems that were immense enough to abort the peace process had it not been for our strong belief and conviction that peace is the people's choice and the only way to the future. [applause]

We have seen how some people feared the conference and the possibility of resulting failures; one group negatively assessed the event and its participants. Their stand recalled what we heard from several Arab circles in past years. The steps we took then have made many people recognize the success and dignity achieved by Egypt and the Arabs.

As far as the results are concerned, it would not be difficult for any fair and accurate observer to realize that the convocation of the conference was a complete success and that we have not lost anything by it. We achieved from it great gains for the supreme Arab interest, specifically for the interests of the Palestinian people, who are the first and most important party in the issue and whose delegation was greeted warmly when it returned to the West Bank and Gaza.

The time has come for us to absorb the facts and axioms of the age and resort to reason. The time has come—I repeat—for us to absorb the facts and axioms of the age, resort to reason, and realize that negotiations in themselves do not weaken a party's position and do not compel it to renounce a right or yield to a demand; negotiations are the method used by the great majority of states to settle disputes in accordance with specific rules and principles under the umbrella of legitimacy and the rule of law.

There are many examples of this in the world today. African countries have resorted to negotiations to resolve acute problems, as happened in Nambia, Angola, and South Africa. Negotiations settled the problem of the Sahara in the Arab Maghreb when it became impossible to solve it through fighting. In Asia, negotiations settled problems in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and recently Korea. I do not agree with those who think that the Arab parties taking part in the conference are negotiating from a position of weakness or are rushing to achieve a result at any price. What the negotiator secures primarily reflects the extent to which his position is based on the strength of right and logic, self-confidence, and a sound position. In the end, he will not have to accept what does not satisfy him or what he thinks will not benefit his interest.

I see no need to remind you here of Egypt's experience in negotiating with Israel, an experience that took place in circumstances no less difficult or fierce than today and in an Arab situation and atmosphere of which you are fully aware. Nevertheless, the negotiations ended in a manner that safeguarded Egyptian and Arab rights, reinforced the gains made by the glorious October war for the Arab nation, and established principles and precedents that the Arab parties can use to defend their rights and stop the increasing erosion of their legal position.

It is enough to tell the doubters and their supporters that it has been unequivocally proven that the conference and

Arab participation benefited the Arab nation and provided it a golden opportunity to declare to the world its just stand and legitimate demands.

The Palestinian people and their representatives were the primary beneficiaries of this conference because they were fearless and courageous in facing the adversary and in expressing a sound, principled, humanitarian stand supported by everyone.

The Arab stand in general was unified, firm, and flexible, proving that the Arab nation can surmount its differences, internal divisions, and hatred when it comes to protecting its strategic interests and drafting its future line.

The Egyptian performance was splendid and firm during the difficult months of intensive contacts before and during the conference. The Egyptian delegation demonstrated the highest degree of responsibility and competence, and gained the admiration and respect of all participants and observers. [applause] This, brothers and sisters, is Egypt's role and destiny. Egypt will continue to be the firm, steadfast pioneer regardless of the grudge bearers.

Nobody should think that the conference constitutes the end of the road or that it means that the solution is impending. We still have a long, arduous road ahead, having merely taken the first steps on the road of bitter struggle, which has its own rules and challenges but which ultimately represents the best road to the pan-Arab objective.

Now that it has become certain that negotiations are linked to all issues proposed for discussion, I deem it proper to address a word to the Arab people, specifically the fraternal Palestinian people, who have the chief interest in changing and challenging the fait accompli, a serious threat to present and future Arab and Islamic rights. I tell the Palestinian people to overcome the remnants of fear and anxiety now that they have overcome the barrier of fear of Israeli superiority. It is their historic responsibility not to miss this opportunity, which may not be repeated in the foreseeable future. The Palestinian people should not hestitate to tread the thorns and face difficulties with firm, solid feet and self-confident, poised souls. Palestinian rights are protected by Palestinian capability, Arab solidarity, and international support.

My advice to the Israeli people is to abandon illusions and suspicions now that the Arab parties have proven that they are prepared to bear the burdens of peace. The Israeli people should realize that peace is the loftiest goal that they should seek to achieve in word and deed, and to commit themselves to the principles that they previously advocated and the slogans they raised so as to reach a new horizon in which the ghosts of war and devastation will disappear. In the past, you—I am addressing the Israeli people—blamed Arabs for missing the opportunities that arose to achieve peace and coexistence and for pursuing empty slogans. This time, don't make us miss this golden opportunity which time rarely offers and which it will never offer again.

Don't be captives to the accumulations of the era of war, violence, hatred, false slogans, and outdated concepts. Focus attention on the hopes that the peace process will give to every child whose view of the future has not matured. This is not a time for one-upmanship on positions or embarking on actions that threaten to torpedo the process. All forces in Israeli society must move to build confidence in the peace process and stop the farce of establishing settlements on Arab land [applause] which represents the greatest defiance to the will of peace and the deepest contradiction to its spirit, concepts, and basic requirements. Enough talk about continuing to annex the occupied land, enough arousing the feelings of Arabs, Muslims, and Christians all over the world over a city to which they have historical and legal rights, as you do. These peoples are linked to Jerusalem by spiritual and cultural bonds that cannot be severed or undermined, bonds whose legitimacy cannot be refuted.

My words to the American people are that their leadership exerted admirable efforts throughout the year and even long before, which enhances confidence in U.S. credibility and policy. The U.S. President and his secretary of state provided an example of what the behavior of a superpower and great state should be [applause] not only through material power, but primarily through moral and ethical power, advocating principles, siding with right, and judging all parties by the same standard. My words to the United States are that we expect it to continue its interest in the peace process and to prove its firmness in backing right and rejecting wrong, and to assert its ability to take the initiatives that the international community believes to be essential to advance the situation and prevent it from reaching a deadlock.

I say to the Soviet Union and friendly European countries that the situation urgently requires them to continue their active role because it is not easy solving such an extremely complex and entangled conflict. It cannot be handled by one country or a small group of countries. Soviet and European friends have long been acquainted with the Arab-Israeli conflict, have a long experience of it, and have adopted firm stands that can help peace and reconciliation overcome despair, violence, destruction, and devastation.

I say to the entire international community that we will not forget, amid all these events, friends who supported and assisted us over the years in extremely difficult circumstances and in very dark days. We seek only right, simply calling for international legitimacy to be upheld, the rule of law to be applied, and the implementation of United Nations' goals and principles, which constitute the one major guarantee for nations in this era of increasing dangers and challenges.

So much for developments in the Arab world and the Middle East. As for Africa, its southern part has seen positive developments toward ending apartheid. We call

on the South African Government to proceed along this path with firm and ever-increasing steps. Let us all agree that the objective is a society free of racism's residue, in which all citizens have equal rights and obligations.

Rapid and exciting developments have occurred in the Horn of Africa, and we must emphasize something we have stated several times before: Egypt accepts a fraternal African people's decisions and supports all the measures that it adopts to safeguard its rights and express its aspirations. Our policy toward that region's countries is not governed by any dispute or any selfish design. All we hope is that the African countries achieve their goals.

We find that major changes in international relations require the Nonaligned Movement's objectives for the next few years to be redefined. The community must unite its capabilities and resources with the group referred to as the Group of 77 [developing countries]. A movement thus united can then mobilize its efforts to enrich the North-South dialogue, consolidate democracy, and cooperate on international economic development.

In European and international spheres our attention is drawn to this critical stage in which positive developments are continuing under the aegis of collective goals and renewed challenges—the aim to further reduce tensions and rivalries among competing international forces. I praise the U.S. President's initiative of 27 September which announces the United States' abandonment of short-range nuclear weapons, and the Soviet president's response. These promise further gigantic steps on the path of disarmament in the next few years, and they will usher in a new stage in our collective life.

Brothers and sisters: A new, capable, and lofty edifice is being created from this great effort spreading throughout Egypt. It begins in Tabah, where the tremendous efforts exerted along the Gulf coast and the Red Sea to explore Egypt's wealth have doubled our limited petroleum reserves, and where there is a boom at dozens of resorts and sites that attract thousands of tourists and citizens, thus turning this important source of revenue into a genuine industry. Deep inside Sinai, work has started on a huge agricultural project that will carry water from the Nile underneath the Suez Canal to irrigate tens of thousand of feddans in the peninsula. In the far west, along the northern coast, work is under way in another huge agricultural project comparable to the one in the Sinai. From the north to the south along the Nile Valley, hundreds of sites are the scene of tremendous efforts that will double Egypt's capabilities and resources. The same is true in the newly built cities and across the green lands that have replaced the deserts east and west of the Nile Valley, and in the new industrial sites that spare Egypt from importing several basic strategic commodities. This national edifice, which is becoming loftier and more capable, is the result of efforts made throughout Egypt in the private and public sector by individuals and institutions working within a nationally integrated endeavor mobilizing all resources.

We are seeking a capable homeland with potential for progress, one whose march is preserved by a national consensus that puts the higher interest above all other considerations, one that flourishes through free creativity and enlightened ideas, one whose path is illuminated by a true democracy which balances rights and duties and knits the social fabric in a way that makes it stronger and which can prepare the coming generations for the challenges of the new age.

We desire a homeland illuminated by religious tolerance and the light of knowledge. We desire a homeland that unleashes the potential of its citizens and institutions. We desire a homeland under the free sky where scientists, researchers, workers, farmers, artists, and men of literature can work. I thank God that we are pursuing the correct path, overcoming difficulties, challenging obstacles, and realizing what are the people's problems. Our hearts are full of faith. Our goal is the homeland's interest and welfare. Our determination is unbending. Our march will not be obstructed by the lies of seditionists who sow discord among the people, who abhor tolerance, who urge fanaticism, and who want to rend the homeland's ties and unity asunder. We tell these groups that your plans will not even scratch the fabric of Egypt's national society because the people know their aims and intentions and because the homeland's unity is an integral part of every Egyptian's conscience. [applause]

Since ancient times we have learned that the homeland is for everyone. Our march will not be obstructed by the falsehood of saboteurs who advocate subversion and who resent the homeland's stability and safety. They are using terrorism to abort the march of democracy. They are corrupting our youth with black and false ideas that antagonize life, civilization, and progress. Despite the false titles they employ, they do not hesitate to commit the ugliest crimes. We tell these groups that we will fight terrorism with the force of the law, the vigilance of the security forces, and the awareness of a great and noble people who reject terrorism, which is foreign to the homeland's tolerance and history. [applause]

We will not forgive those who are trying to jeopardize the homeland's stability and security. They are the enemies of enlightenment. They want Egypt to plunge into sedition, chaos, backwardness, and darkness. I am fully confident that our present generation will witness Egypt's awakening and renaissance because we are building our edifice on solid foundations. We are learning from every lesson. We are dealing with problems at their roots. We are establishing new values. We are opening the doors for all who are ready to give. We listen to opinions and counteropinions. We urge everyone to participate.

Our hopes are not dreams. They are based on determination, good intentions, and clear aims. They are the

hopes of a great people who are ready for sacrifices, challenges, and difficulties. I implore God to support our march, give it wisdom, and safeguard it until it achieves its great aims. He is our protector. May God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Libya

Memorandum to ICO Rebuts Lockerbie Accusations

LD1911100891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Nov (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has emphasized that all ICO member states are attached to noble Islamic principles that reject violence which is unjustified and based on injustice and at the same time enjoin respect for the individual human being.

In a statement issued today on the latest accusations leveled against the Libyan Arab Jamhiriyah, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid said: "The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, an ICO member-state, continues to respect these commitments, as is stated in the official memorandum that the secretary general received from the Libyan Government today."

Dr. Algabid pointed out that the ICO condemns terrorism in all its forms, without any reservation. He added: "The various Islamic conferences of foreign ministers have adopted several resolutions binding member states to coordinate their efforts with the other nations of the world to fight terrorism and particularly acts of aggression against the safety and security of civil aviation."

Report Urges Hague Hearing in Lockerbie Case

PM1911165691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 17

[Bakr 'Uwaydah article: "'Pan Am-Lockerbie' File to The Hague Instead of Dropping Bombs on Tripoli?!"]

[Text] The moment that the U.S. and British judiciaries announced (Thursday, 14 November) the indictment of Libyan officials in connection with the "Pan Am-Lockerbie" incident, talk began about "methods of retaliation," especially with regard to "the "possibility of President Bush's recourse to the military option." This was followed by analysts' interpretations of "how far a military strike could go; its means, its timing, and its chances of success"—as though a U.S. offensive against Libya and the Libyans was the only available solution if the Libyan authorities refuse to hand over the defendants to the U.S. or British authorities.

Certainly Lockerbie was horrible. And certainly no wise person should oppose the efforts of the judiciary in the victims' countries to pursue anyone suspected of involvement in that incident, including reprisals against those involved and actually convicted. Perhaps a confirmation of the rule that "you can run away but you cannot hide forever" will convince anyone who still considers murdering the innocent as a way of alarming certain governments that there is no security for him and thus cause him to abandon that futile method.

There is also a question, however, that requires an answer: Why threaten, let alone implement, a military action before all other options—and, first and foremost, the international judiciary as represented by the International Court of Justice—have been employed? The U.S. attorney general's office and its Scottish counterpart can transfer the file on the case to the court in The Hague, which should then order Libya to make its accused citizens appear before the court, with the provision of all guarantees and basics of a fair trial. If they are convicted, Libya should be more enthusiastic than anyone else for justice to take its natural course. But if it rejects the principle of cooperating with the International Court of Justice in the first place, then it and its people must bear the consequences.

The momentum that the United Nations secured through its confrontation and thwarting of the invasion of Kuwait can be applied by other international bodies such as the court in The Hague so that their resolutions will be influential and binding, thus sparing members of the international community the need always to resort to weapons, both small and large!

Of course, these ideas depend on the belief that the "Pan Am-Lockerbie" case has not been subjected to the convolutions of politicalization dictated by certain interests, and that the whole thing is confined to the legal pursuit of one, two, or three defendants. Otherwise, it would be a different matter, and it would not be embarrassing to admit the naivety of that entire account... praying to God to help the good Libyans, as they might find themselves paying a further price for more tragedies for which they are not at all responsible!

Campaign Against Screwworms Succeeds

LD1311201591 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The director of the program in Tripoli for annihilating the screwworm reported that the stage of the biological combating of screwworms using sterile insects has been completed after achieving staggeringly successful results before the end of the period specified by the experts. In a press statement to JANA, he said that the programme of using sterile worms was employed for the first time in North Africa by establishing an air bridge for transporting the sterile worms in special transport aircraft from Mexico to the Great Jamahiriyah.

He added: In 11 months more than 1,250,000,000 sterile worms were scattered in the whole infected region, which extended from al-Misratah in the east to the area of Bengardane in fraternal Tunisia to a depth of between 80 km and 100 km to the south. The director of the program for annihilating the screwworm praised the huge efforts made by the Great Jamahiriyah in this context. The

results of such efforts in biological and land countermeasures were positive and successful.

Sudan

*Citizens Participate in Harvest Work

*Youth Group Organizes 7,000

92P40062A Khartoum AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH in Arabic 24 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] A convoy of harvest workers set off yesterday for al-Rank Province in the Upper Nile State. The group, numbering 7,000 persons, was organized by the National Youth Organization in Khartoum State. Minister of Agriculture Professor Ahmad 'Ali Qunayf said that this group is considered a message to all the skeptics about the Sudanese people's resources and capabilities, and that this mass movement to the places of harvest represents the cultural, economic, and political program of transforming this people. Staff Brigadier General Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, governor of Khartoum, affirmed that the great battle—the glorious holy war—is the battle of the harvest and that the mobilization of this group is a fitting response to the vicious attacks to which Sudan has been subjected from the West. The masses have declared that not one kernel shall fall to the ground, as a confirmation that Sudan, by its strength and determination, is on the proper path. Dr. al-Hajj Adam, general superintendent of People's Committees in Khartoum State, declared that the People's Committees will pledge a solution to all of the problems of these individuals during their presence in the harvest fields, indicating that this is a distinguishing difference in dealing with these problems—that the National Youth Organization would relieve the pressure on participants in the harvest campaign to solve their problems.

*500 To Return to Kurdufan Harvest

92P40062B Khartoum AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH in Arabic 26 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abdallah, commissioner for displaced persons, today announced his approval for the distribution of foodstuffs to displaced persons after intense negotiations between the commission and donor organizations. Upon his return from the city of Kosti, the commissioner told AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH that the commission employed every possibility to achieve this goal. As for their conscription and participation in the harvest campaign, he confirmed that there is a definite desire among the displaced persons to participate in the harvest, especially as the sesame harvest has begun in the city of al-Rank. He said that there is great enthusiasm among the village chiefs and responsible elders for committing their support to the harvest campaigns. He also said that the food situation in the city of Kosti is secure.

On another note, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim said that there is an urgent request from the governors to return the displaced Upper Nile people from the capital back to their home regions to participate in harvest work, especially now that the region is secure and there are ample foodstuffs. He explained that there are 500 displaced persons among those from North Kurdufan who will be heading back to Kurdufan State in the next few days to participate in the harvest work.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Military Commanders

JN1911151591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting of a number of military commanders.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al- Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, Presidential Office head Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, and Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Futayih al-Rawi, the chief of staff.

UN Envoy Arrives; To Renew Memo of Understanding

JN1911193791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, personal envoy to the UN secretary general for humanitarian aid, arrived in Baghdad today.

In Baghdad, the UN secretary general's representative will renew the memorandum of understanding signed with the Iraqi Government on 18 April.

In a statement to INA, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said that he will meet with a number of Iraqi officials to discuss the signing of a new agreement which would satisfy both parties, and to find radical solutions to the situation in Iraq caused by the continued blockade imposed on it.

Discusses Blockade With Foreign Minister

JN2011120391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn this morning received Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive representative of the UN secretary general, and his delegation. The UN humanitarian program in Iraq, which was signed on 18 April and will end on 31 December, was reviewed. The unjust blockade against the people of Iraq and its negative economic and health repercussions were also discussed.

The foreign minister explained the great injustice done to Iraq by resolutions issued by the Security Council for political purposes against the unity, sovereignty, and security of this great country, which taught humanity what it did not know. The meeting was attended by the head of the Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

AL-QADISIYAH Names New Editor in Chief

JN1911160191

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic, the organ of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, begins on 17 November to publish the name of a new editor in chief, Hani Wahib, who replaces Staff Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman. This appears on the right side of its masthead. Until 1 November, the paper used to publish the name of its former editor in chief, Staff Maj. Gen. Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman along with Deputy Editor in Chief Amir al-Hulu, in the same place. As of 1 November, however, the paper was observed to drop the name of Staff Maj. Gen Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman as editor in chief, publishing only the name and title of the deputy editor in chief, Amir al-Hulu.

Oil Minister Discusses Oil, Gas Production

JN1911180391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1638 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Hiti has said that cadres in the oil sector have now succeeded in repairing installations and stations to produce 1.6 million barrels of crude oil per day from the northern and southern fields. Some of these installations operate covering industrial consumption needs.

He added: The reconstruction plan was expedited, thanks to the directives of President Saddam Husayn during his visit tot he Oil Ministry on 22 August. Installations to be repaired in the southern region were identified in order to produce the largest possible quantity of liquid gas and dry gas to ensure covering the country's needs, and lifting restrictions on sales to citizens.

The minister stressed that ministry cadres managed to complete the first stage of the plan to reconstruct and operate installations as of the first of October. They attained liquid gas production of 700 tonnes a day, and dry gas production of 120 million cubic feet a day. He indicated that production increased as of the beginning of November as the rest of the installations were repaired. Now, liquid gas production is 1,300 tonnes a day, bringing the country's total production to 4,000 tonnes a day, a rate at which rationing and restrictions on sales of liquid gas to citizens will be lifted in implementation of the directives of President Saddam Husayn.

He said that what has been attained crowns the plans and programs to rebuild from the great damage that befell our oil installations in the south, middle, and north. A number of stations for crude oil production and for separation of associated gas have been rebuilt to a capacity of 400,000 barrels a day up to August 1991.

'Analysis' of Iranian Nuclear Plans, U.S. Stand

JN1911192691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Unattributed "news analysis"; from the "Spotlight on the Events" program]

[Excerpts] Observers are following with interest the Iranian regime's statements and political moves that affirm its intentions to acquire nuclear weapons. This

arouses growing concern among Arab political circles in particular and among the Middle East states in general. As the forces of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression continue to impose the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people and concentrate efforts on destroying Iraq's defensive weapons, many states in the region, such as Iran and Turkey, are publicly building their offensive military capabilities and do not conceal their ambitions to acquire nonconventional weapons. This, in addition to the Zionist nuclear capability, could make the Arab region face a future nuclear threat from various directions, forcing it to live in constant nuclear terror.

Despite the false calls reiterated by U.S. officials on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, the U.S. Administration's behavior runs counter to these slogans, as it extends military assistance to the Zionist entity and does nothing to prevent other states in the region from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The Iranian president publicly talked about his regime's ambitions to possess nuclear weapons. He said that his regime must acquire nuclear weapons to guarantee its survival. This time, Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not conceal his regime's fervent attempts to acquire nuclear weapons, which he openly considers the guarantee for his regime's survival under the current circumstances. This was revealed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani the day before yesterday in front of a number of Iranian Air Force personnel, when he affirmed his regime's continuous efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and to encourage scientific research, especially in the military domain.

It is noteworthy that Hashemi-Rafsanjani assumes prime responsibility for the regime's plans to acquire nuclear technology. Two years ago, he reactivated the guards corps, which has been entrusted with advancing Iranian programs in this regard. He frequently stressed that nuclear weapons are the most important strategic guarantee for the continuation of his regime in the region. [passage omitted]

It is also noteworthy that the U.S. Administration accused China of offering technological military assistance to Iran. Evidently, the Iranian nuclear plan is supported by many states. However, the U.S. Administration turns a deaf ear to these facts and stirs a furor about Arab states seeking to build their defensive capabilities.

U.S. 'Aggression Scenario Against Libya' Viewed

JN2011002591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov 91 (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said that the ridiculous accusations leveled by the United States at Libya are simply an exposed part of the prelude to any aggression that the United States has grown accustomed to launching against nations and peoples without any moral, human, or legal deterrent or scruples.

In an article today, the paper explains that the United States has started planning a new aggression scenario against Libya by adopting a belligerent, insolent, and trite tone and conduct. This aggression, the paper says, aims at violating the sovereignty of an Arab country in light of the absence and willful disregard for international legitimacy and the distortion of the criteria of justice, law, and integrity.

The paper adds: It is not strange that this dangerous infraction of laws and values should be repeated. Similarly, it is not strange that the United States should threaten an Arab country with aggression under pretexts and excuses devised and concocted by the CIA, with the support of Zionist media in the West.

The paper adds: What is happening now is part of Bush's new world order that permits this conduct and gives Bush the right to suppress nations and threaten independent states. How can this not be the case given that the U.S. whip terrifies the puppets in our region, the dwarfs and traitors who have never entertained the idea of not participating in the aggression against Iraq, either in deed, word or by remaining silent.

The paper says that the U.S. excuse for the aggressive campaign against Libya is ridiculous, and that the misrepresentation of facts and values causes dismay. But what really causes anger, the paper maintains, is watching all this political prostitution being practiced by the servile Arab regimes that watch and participate in everything America does, including the violation of everything that is Arab, and their continued submission to the decisions of the U.S. master without even being aware that they are daily losing a new part of their existence and entity and of the foundations of their rule and states.

The paper concludes: Even if the new U.S. campaign stops at this point, the basic issue remains the disregard for everything in which the Arab nation takes pride. The paper affirms that these repeated attempts to control Arab territory and decisionmaking will fail in the end, but only after huge sacrifices.

Prospects for Release of Israeli Captives Viewed

Lubrani—No New Information on Arad

TA2011091291 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 15

[Report by Tzadoq Yehezqeli in New York]

[Excerpts] "I have still not received any new information on Ron Arad, but I believe that the release of hostages Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland is part of an overall initiative and we will receive information soon," Uri Lubrani told YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday. [passage omitted]

He rejected any criticism, even veiled, of the UN secretary general, who separated the negotiations on the Israeli POW's and MIA's from the Western hostages.

Negotiations are now in progress. The release of the Western hostages is being discussed by Syria, Iran, and the United Nations, and in separate negotiations the release of Lebanese detainees by Israel in return for information about Ron Arad and the Israeli MIA's.

"I have no doubt that the UN secretary general is doing everything possible," Lubrani said yesterday. "His initiative continues and it has still not come to an end." He expressed full confidence that Israel will not yield and even recalled the fact that Sutherland mentioned his efforts at a news conference in Damascus.

Lubrani welcomed the release of Sutherland and Waite. "The release of hostages is positive," he said. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Denying Israeli 'Trump Card'

TA2011055391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Israel is anxiously awaiting for some word regarding its soldiers missing in Lebanon. The concern by some officials is that the Hizballah captors have decided to free all the Western hostages while keeping the Israeli soldiers. Ya'aqov Rosenberg reports:

The assessment by some Israeli security sources is that Hizballah might have changed its strategy regarding the Western hostages and the Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon. For years, Hizballah linked the release of the hostages to Israel's freeing of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners. Israel opposed this linkage, but officials took comfort in knowing that Jerusalem was a major player in the hostage crisis and could use the card to obtain the release of its missing soldiers. But Hizballah has now made it clear that it will free the Western hostages regardless of the Israeli response.

Iranian radio said yesterday that the release of Waite and Sutherland indicated that the kidnappers decided to free all of the captives despite what it called Israeli intransigence. The message appears to be an effort aimed to deny Israel's trump card, Hizballah commander Shayk 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, abducted in 1989.

Israeli officials say that despite two gestures by Jerusalem to free Lebanese prisoners, Israel has not received any information regarding the whereabouts of navigator Ron Arad. This, in addition to a complete absence of information regarding the fate of the three Israeli soldiers captured during the 1982 battle at al-Sultan Ya'qub.

For his part, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar says there is an agreement in principle with the Lebanese Shiite organizations to release all of the remaining Western hostages unconditionally by Christmas. Speaking at UN headquarters in New York, Perez de Cuellar said he had received commitments from those holding the five hostages that they would be freed without linkage to other issues. The secretary general said he had hoped for news soon about Israeli navigator Ron Arad but said this was not linked to the issue of the Western hostages. He said information about Arad and other missing Israelis was tied to the release of more than 300 Lebanese prisoners held by Israel and the South Lebanon Army. Perez de Cuellar said that intense negotiations were taking place over the release of the Israeli prisoners and MIA's with the hostage takers and with Syria and Iran, but he added that this was a complex issue.

Willingness for Mutual Release Reiterated

TA2011074991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar said yesterday that he hopes soon to receive new information on missing Israeli navigator Ron Arad. Attorney Uri Slonim, the defense minister's adviser, said in reaction that if such information is indeed received, it will constitute a breakthrough. So far, Israel has received no new information on its POW's and MIA's. Our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

It has been five years and 36 days since Israeli navigator Ron Arad was taken captive. Sources in the defense establishment say that if the secretary general's assessments prove correct and information on Ron Arad is received in the near future, it will constitute a breakthrough. Attorney Uri Slonim, the defense minister's adviser on POW and MIA affairs, clarified that as far as Israel is concerned, the entire matter could be concluded today if the other party were to show some goodwill. Israel will release all the prisoners it is holding the moment its POW's and MIA's are returned.

At this stage, however, Israel has no new information whatsoever regarding the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] POW's and MIA's. Officials in the defense establishment have great confidence in the secretary general's capabilities, but stress that the secretary general is not the one deciding when to supply information. Attorney General Slonim was willing to say that if the secretary general was

optimistic then he was also prepared to feel optimistic. One should add that over the last few years Israel has paid for its optimism with quite a few disappointments. [passage omitted]

Arens Optimistic Over Arad Release

TA2011125991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that in the wake of the UN secretary general's statements yesterday, there is definitely room for optimism regarding new information on missing navigator Ron Arad. Arens, accompanied by the chief of staff and the commander of the Northern Command, toured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases on the northern border this morning. Arens added that thanks to the IDF's intensive activity, there has already been a drop in Hizballah attacks. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the north.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The past two days have definitely been cause for some hope and optimism after a long period of tension-filled anticipation for some word on the Israeli POW's and MIA's. Although the UN secretary general does not update us every hour, we were happy to hear that he was optimistic.

[Arens] The very fact that he reiterates that he will continue to deal with this issue and that he is optimistic regarding the results constitutes good news.

[Hecht] Following the release of hostages Waite and Sutherland, sources in Tehran reported that the release of all the Western hostages is very near. Arens was asked, is Israel included in this move?

[Arens] We are doing all we can to make sure we are in on the move. We received the secretary general's promise that we would be included, and the secretary general's statement from yesterday already corroborated that he was handling the issue of Ron Arad.

[Hecht] We have confidence in the secretary general, Arens said, and are doing all we can to help him. However, at this stage there is no room to talk of additional Israeli compromises. We have done enough.

The IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] have been conducting intensive activity in southern Lebanon for the third consecutive week: bombardments, raids north of the security zone, and aerial attacks. The results are already discernible, Arens said, but the job is not over.

[Arens] There is still too much Hizballah activity, too many bombs and hostile actions. To the extent that the scope of their operations has been reduced, I would like to hope that it is the result of our intensive activities. We will continue our intensive activity as long as the Hizballah is in the area. [end recording]

Sharon Denies Housing Ministry Violated Law

TA2011090591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpts] [Einstein] Good morning to Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Einstein] The Finance Ministry has stated that Construction and Housing Ministry officials have illegally transferred funds among various budgetary items and have also given contractors illegal contracts. Have you people at the Construction and Housing Ministry broken the law?

[Sharon] Absolutely not. The Construction and Housing Ministry has fully implemented the government's decisions. [passage omitted]

In 1991 we carried out government decisions precisely according to verbal and written agreements with the Treasury. Regrettably, there has been an attempt to change the priorities set by the government regarding spreading construction throughout the country to divert construction from the Galilee, the Negev, greater Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the kibbutzim and moshavim to the central region. It is true that the government has reached a decision in this spirit regarding 1992, which the Knesset and the Knesset's Finance Committee will have to address; however, there is an ongoing effort to stop what was already agreed upon regarding 1991 and divert building to the central region. This is a very serious matter and completely untenable.

[Einstein] But Finance Ministry officials are claiming that the budgets were authorized for construction projects in central Israel while the Construction and Housing Ministry, acting on its own volition, diverted these budgets for building in the periphery. They also assert that there is a surplus of apartments in the periphery while the demand is in the central area.

[Sharon] All the construction plans were shown on a map to the entire government and were endorsed over a year ago. This map is attached to the cabinet decision and can be found at the Government Secretariat. There is no surplus of apartments anywhere. [passage omitted]

There is no need to increase the population density in central Israel. The cabinet decided to build in accordance with national interests, and if the locations are situated slightly farther away, the cabinet decided to build better roads. Do we need even more people crowding the coastal plain? What the government should have done was....

[Einstein, interrupting] Mr. Sharon, the issue right now is not what the government should have done. The question right now is whether the Construction and

Housing Ministry is acting according to decisions already made by the government. Another claim by the Finance Ministry is that, in order to be legally valid, any contract signed with the contractors must also be co-signed by a Treasury official. Were any contracts signed with contractors without receiving prior approval from the Finance Ministry? The fact is that today the contractors are not getting paid for apartments they have built.

[Sharon] First of all, the Construction and Housing Ministry is merely carrying out the government's decision to the letter. It is true that several thousand apartments were built without the Finance Ministry's signature. However, this is not a new phenomenon. After all, based on the sad experience of the past 18 months, nothing would have been built had we waited for the Finance Ministry to attach its signature. Therefore, when talking about waves of immigration and with an existing map picturing building locations throughout the country, and considering the fact that we already have government decisions on the matter—we must first take action and only then try to overcome the obstacles placed in the way of construction in Israel. There is no choice. The issue cannot be delayed, and it was held up for long months. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Levi Meets Egypt's Khalil 19 Nov

TA1911165891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that Israel made generous gestures, which paved the way for the UN secretary general's success in his mission to free the hostages held in Lebanon. The foreign minister added that at the onset of the process, Perez de Cuellar promised to take action that would free all of the POW's, and Israel is now expecting our men to come home.

The foreign minister made the remarks after a meeting he held with Mustafa Khalil, deputy chairman of the Egyptian ruling party, who is currently visiting Israel. Khalil expressed his hope that despite the disappointments and disagreements in the Madrid conference, the continuation of the talks will not be withheld. He also hopes that all the parties would understand that there is no alternative to peace. According to him, Egypt will help reach understandings and, mainly, establish a common interest between Israel and Syria.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Mustafa Khalil and two Egyptian Parliament members came to Israel as the guests of the Labor Party congress.

Eytan Promises Estonia Agricultural Assistance

TA1911121991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Nov 91 p 8

[Report by David Mosheyoff]

[Text] "Estonia is requesting agricultural assistance from Israel, and it will get it," Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan announced at the end of a meeting with the Estonian deputy agriculture minister, who was in Rome to attend the biennial general conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The deputy minister said that the Estonian economy has freed itself of its dependence on the USSR's economy and is undergoing far-reaching changes. That is why it needs agricultural aid, particularly new technologies and guidance, to increase food production and alleviate shortages in the winter.

Minister Eytan replied that Israel would be willing to assist Estonia according to priorities and with international financing.

Trade Agreement Signed With Czechoslovakia

LD1911220991 Prague CSTK in English 1437 GMT 19 Nov 91

[By unidentified CSTK correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem Nov 19 (CSTK)—Czechoslovakia and Israel today signed a general trade agreement granting each other most-favoured-nation status.

Signed here by visiting Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, the agreement provides for cooperation in trade, industry, the service sector, agriculture, tourism, transport, communications and technology.

Baksay and Levi also discussed the establishment of a free trade zone.

Baksay told CSTK Czechoslovakia has started exporting "Skoda Favorit" passenger cars to Israel, and hopes to sell about 2,000 of them by the end of the year.

U.S. Plans To Pay Aid in 2 Installments Viewed

TA1811114591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by U.S.-based correspondent Qeren Neubach and Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration has notified Israel's representatives in Washington that this year the foreign aid to Israel, to the tune of $3 billion, will be paid in two installments and not one, as has been the custom since 1985.

In discussions Israeli representatives held with State Department officials, it became apparent that the United States will split the aid into two parts: $1.2 billion in civilian aid and $1.8 billion in military aid. Half of the sum will be delivered now and the other half in February 1992. Due to this move, Israel stands to lose revenues in terms of interest it has enjoyed to date when the aid was given in a single installment. U.S. experts believe that Israel stands to lose some 50 percent of its

expected profits next year: some $18 million from the civilian aid and slightly more from the military aid.

At the same time, Israel's defense establishment estimates that a deposit of the U.S. aid in an American bank will yield approximately $30-$40 million in profits from interest, as opposed to the original estimate of $100 million, which was based on the assumption that the entire sum will be given at the beginning of next year. Interest income also depends on the sums withdrawn from the U.S. bank. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources have said that the U.S. decision stems from purely internal considerations of the Bush administration and not from an intention to hurt aid to Israel. The sources expressed their certainty that the second part of the aid will be delivered as planned.

Labor Party Opens 5th Congress; Peres Comments

TA1911120491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Labor Party this morning opened its fifth congress. The congress is marked by sharp internal political differences and by the absence of the red flag and of the Socialist International anthem. At this hour, the congress is holding a deliberation on the primaries, the process through which the party's lists for the Knesset elections is to be determined.

Decisions were taken this morning by the congress committee in support of electoral reform and against the law prohibiting contacts with the PLO. The committee's recommendations will go before the full party later in the congress.

In the corridors of the Binyeney Ha'uma convention center in Jerusalem, party leaders try to influence congress delegates on their points of view. Reporter David Ze'ev asked Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres what Labor has to do to regain public support.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The party is in a good shape. The press is exaggerating and, in my judgment, out of tune with reality.

[Ze'ev] What do you want to see that will give yourself a personal victory here?

[Peres] The basic difference between us and the Likud is on three issues: a) [as heard] they suggest autonomy with the continuation of settlement; we say it's nonsense. If you will continue the settlements, there won't be autonomy.

Then they say they want peace, while annexing all the territories. We say it's nonsense. If you'll annex all the territories, there won't be peace.

Then they are reluctant about the rest of the world, and we say: No, there is a new era which creates unbelievably great opportunities for Israel, and we have to enter it straight and self-assured.

[Ze'ev] But there are sharp differences between the hawks and the doves in your party.

[Peres] Which differences? On what? Give me one example.

[Ze'ev] The PLO, a Palestinian state.

[Peres] It's irrelevant. There is already a Palestinian delegation. Some people want to photograph this delegation en face and others want on profile. It's totally irrelevant, unimportant; it's not an issue.

[Ze'ev] In the meantime, the Likud is proceeding with the peace process. So, what's your message to the public?

[Peres] How does it proceed with the peace process? Where did you see it?

[Ze'ev] They went to the Madrid conference; we're in the middle of bilateral talks.

[Peres] They went to an international conference that it has opposed. No decision was there taken. [end recording]

SLA Raid on Village in Lebanon Reported

TA2011085691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The SLA [South Lebanese Army] raided the village of Majdal Silm last night and blew up two houses. The Voice of the South radio station reported that the SLA troops had initially confirmed the identity of the residents. They took several male villagers to the security zone for questioning. This was reported by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 20 November reports that "SLA forces operated north of the security zone last night and demolished two houses used by the Hizballah organization." The report adds that "the SLA evacuated women and children from the houses, arrested several residents suspected of collaborating with the Hizballah, and then blew up the houses. The SLA sustained no casualties in the operation."]

One Death, 4 Injuries Reported

TA2011123791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] A 10-year-old girl was killed, her three sisters wounded, and their mother critically injured during last night's SLA [South Lebanese Army] operation in the village of Majdal Silm, north of the security zone. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] Headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the family members were hurt when an explosive charge left in their home by SLA troops blew the house up. SLA Headquarters reported that all of the residents of the house had been evacuated before the house was blown up, but the women and children reentered the house before it

exploded. Our correspondent adds that the villagers are furious, and Irish UNIFIL officers are trying to calm them down.

IDF Expects 'Difficult Winter' in Lebanon

TA2011104791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Nov 91 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Menahem Horowitz, 'Amos Ben-Vered and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Military sources yesterday reported a drop in the number of explosions in southern Lebanon. The cause of the calm—according to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]—is the Israeli Air Force's massive bombing of terrorist targets, especially terrorists from the Hizballah organization situated in Jabal Safi. The bombings have caused the Hizballah heavy casualties.

The IDF expects Israel to have a difficult winter in southern Lebanon, mainly as a result of the Hizballah activity. Yesterday the Lebanese president revealed that he had rejected an appeal by the United States and Israel to stop Hizballah's activity in Lebanon. The defense establishment is worried by developments in Lebanon and the increase in terror activities there. Nevertheless, sources yesterday pointed out that the IDF may benefit from the renewed fighting between the Amal and Hizballah organizations.

The IDF is also concerned by the growing number of UN troops and the increase in their patrols. IDF sources have revealed that since the incident between the IDF and the UN forces, in which a soldier from the Irish UN contingent and an SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier were killed, the UN has stepped up its patrols and is following IDF patrols. There was another incident just recently in which Norwegian soldiers followed an IDF patrol, and an exchange of fire between the two contingents was only narrowly avoided. [passage omitted]

Irish Foreign Minister Edgar Collins yesterday told 'Amos Biran, the Israeli ambassador to Ireland, that he would like to express his country's anger and shock over the killing of an Irish soldier by SLA troops to the highest echelons in Israel. "The bilateral relations between our two countries may be affected by this incident," he said.

Biran told the Irish Foreign Minister that the incident was the result of mistaken identity because an SLA soldier had been killed by a Hizballah squad operating in the area a short while before.

Collins described the SLA as "a militia backed by Israel." The ambassador replied that "Israel supports the SLA, but is definitely not responsible for the SLA or its activities."

Police Storm Islamic Court Offices in Jerusalem

Police Chief Apologizes for Incident

JN1911112891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] About 100 people, including members of the Higher Islamic Council, marched through East Jerusalem streets protesting a police force storming of the Islamic court offices on Salah al-Din Street. Major General Hayim Albaldes, chief of the Jerusalem police force, visited the Islamic court offices this morning and apologized for the incident. He indicated that the policemen did not display sufficient sensitivity toward the Islamic court and its status. His hosts at the court thanked him for these statements.

Reasons for Office Search Revealed

JN1911122391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] Information received by the Jerusalem police clearly told of preparations for serious hostile activity in the Islamic court area of East Jerusalem, and not just in the court offices. [sentence as heard] This prompted the police to take immediate action. This was confirmed to us by Major General Hayim Albaldes, chief of Jerusalem's police force.

The chief of police said the operation took place in the afternoon, and not at night. He added that the police operation was not confined to, nor directed against, the Islamic court offices. The operation included the entire Salah al-Din street area, as proven by the fact that other offices in the area were also searched.

Asked if certain materials were seized during the police search, he said: First of all, available information did not refer to the presence of certain materials, but rather to preparations for a terrorist act. This required an immediate reply and large-scale combing operation so as to preempt such an act. He added that the force which undertook this operation seized documents for examination purposes. He went on to say: We shall decide if the need exists for these documents to be returned once this examination is over.

Regarding the formation of a committee to investigate the circumstances of this operation, the chief of the Jerusalem police force said: What happened, particularly regarding the need for prompt action in light of available information and other considerations, related to informing the general police command before implementation, is the main thing which prompted me to form a committee to examine this subject. He added: Based on the documents seized, I can now say that I apologize to the management of the Islamic court for the offense done

to them as a result of this search. He hoped that this will not undermine relations between the police and other quarters in the city.

A march was staged in Salah al-Din street this morning to protest the police search of the Islamic court. Members of the Higher Islamic Council participated in this march. The participants then dispersed in a quiet and orderly manner.

Protest Over Raid; Gaza Mosque Searched

TA1911115991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] In Gaza, security authorities this morning found a tear gas gun and three Molotov cocktails ready for operation in a search of a local mosque. Also found were paint spray cans, inflammatory banners, clubs, and axes.

Outside East Jerusalem's new bus station, a 16-year-old girl from Ramallah this morning tried to stab a border policeman. Our reporter says she pulled out a kitchen knife and began running in the direction of a Border Police patrol, but was stopped and disarmed. The police said that under questioning, she said she had been sent to knife a policeman as part of the intifadah.

Also in East Jerusalem, about 100 hundred Arabs, including members of the Muslim Higher Council, marched in protest against yesterday's police action against the Islamic Shar'ia Court. The protesters moved from the court outside the Old City walls to the Temple Mount. There were no incidents. Earlier, Jerusalem Police Commander Hayim Albaldes apologized personally to court members for yesterday's police move. They thanked him for his remarks. Our reporter says that material confiscated by police on the grounds that it was being used for terrorist activity was not inflammatory and will be returned to the Muslim authorities today. A committee has been set up to investigate yesterday's incident. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek expressed outrage at the police action.

There were violent clashes between inmates at the Qezi'ot prison in the western Negev yesterday. In the fighting between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalist supporters, at least 16 prisoners were injured. They were treated on the spot. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers intervened to restore order.

Yesterday was the first day of the new, more liberal policy on visits to the detention camp. Two hundred and fifty inmates were allowed visitors.

Baraq Refuses Permanent Structures at Outpost

TA1911111191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq recently rejected an unusual proposal by the Housing and Construction Ministry to place—at its own expense—permanent structures at a military outpost established near Dolev, in Samaria, on the site where settler Ya'ir Mendelsson was murdered last March. Baraq thereby endorsed the recommendation of the military advocate general and the General Staff's deputy chief of operations.

After Mendelsson's murder and at the request of the defense minister, the commander of the Central Command issued an order to confiscate the area where the murder was committed for nine months. A military outpost composed of two temporary structures was erected at the site. The confiscation order is scheduled to expire in January 1992. [passage omitted]

New Budget Procedures Outlined for IDF Commands

TA1811115891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will introduce a revolutionary change in its treatment of the current budget as of next year. According to the chief of staff's decision, each of the regional commands (northern, central, and southern) will be given an annual budget at the beginning of the year and will function as an autonomous economic unit. Each command will have to plan its own budget and economize as much as it can. According to the new procedure, which will go into effect on 1 January 1992, a command that will be able to prove that it has managed to economize on its allocated budget will receive the lion's share of the money saved, and it will be invested in the command, according to the decision of the commander. The IDF will train budget officers to meet this end. These officers will be stationed in each of the commands and will assist the commander and his staff in planning the budget and its proper distribution for the various missions. Senior IDF sources termed this move "innovative and revolutionary." Military sources reported that the chief of staff decided to make this move following the recommendation of the IDF Logistics Branch, after a three-year experiment in budget management on the division level completely failed. At the end of the three-year term, it was concluded that an IDF division is not the appropriate level at which to manage a budget. This is due to its nature and missions, which amke it impossible to balance accounts in such a military formation. Military sources reported that the decision to budget the regional commands and run them like autonomous economic units is part of the chief of staff's attempt to economize on the expenses of operating the standing, career, and reserve Army units.

King Husayn Accepts Prime Minister's Resignation

NC2011095691 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Amman, Nov 20 (AFP)—Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and his 25-member government resigned Wednesday after failing to secure parliamentary backing for a cabinet reshuffle.

Authoritative sources said King Husayn had accepted al-Masri's resignation, adding that the king was now expected to ask his cousin and former chief of the royal court, Zayd Bin-Shakir, to form a new government.

Al-Masri, named prime minister on June 19, said his decision to step down was aimed at "strengthening the democratic process in the country."

The prime minister was forced to resign when discussions with parliamentary blocs failed to produce majority backing for a proposed reshuffle ahead of the December 1 opening of the new legislative session.

In October 49 members in the 80-seat parliament signed a statement opposing the al-Masri government.

The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, controlling 22 seats, had refused to take part in any government under al-Masri that intended to continue peace negotiations with Israel.

But political sources here said parliamentary groups had reacted positively to reports of Bin-Shakir's imminent nomination and had expressed readiness to work with him.

Bin-Shakir To Be Prime Minister

NC1911144691 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Amman, Nov 19 (AFP) - Field Marshal Zayd Bin-Shakir will officially be appointed Jordan's new premier by royal decree on Wednesday, replacing Tahir al-Masri who resigned over the weekend, authoritative sources said here Tuesday.

On Saturday, al-Masri submitted his 25-member cabinet's resignation to King Husayn who asked the outgoing premier to stay on for a few days until the new government was formed.

The al-Masri cabinet was to hold its last meeting Tuesday in a bid to finalize the 1992 budget, the sources said.

Bin-Shakir, who is the king's cousin and had served as his chief of the royal court, is expected to announce his new cabinet late Wednesday or early Thursday, they added.

Al-Masri was forced to resign after failing to secure the necessary parliamentary backing for a reshuffle ahead of the December 1 opening of the legislature's regular session.

The Muslim Brotherhood—with 22 of the 80 seats in parliament—had refused to be part of the outgoing government because of Jordan's participation in the Middle East peace process.

But the Brotherhood left the door open for a dialogue with Bin-Shakir, sources close to the two parties have said.

Parliamentary blocs have reacted positively to the choice of Bin-Shakir and voiced readiness to work closely with him, they said.

New Government To Be Announced

JN2011102391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister-designate al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir has covered enough ground in his consultations with the leaders of parliamentary blocs and political groups in the country and is entering the stage of putting final touches on his government, which should be announced either today or tomorrow.

According to well-informed sources, al-Sharif Zayd has had sufficient consultations with the parliamentary blocs to have clear ideas of his government's composition, in terms of parliamentary participation and technocrats from outside the Lower House.

"The task of al-Sharif Zayd now is to translate these ideas into names (of cabinet members)," a source close to the consultations told the Jordan Times.

The source expected that an official announcement of the full names of cabinet members will be made Wednesday or Thursday, soon after Prime Minister al-Masri hands in the resignation of his government, which is expected today.

Mr. al-Masri is scheduled to formally hand in his resignation to His Majesty King Husayn after his cabinet has completed work of the fiscal budget for 1992 in extensive government meetings Tuesday.

Al-Sharif Zayd was also expected to be officially designated as prime minister today but the sources said that he might need an extra day to reach a final decision on the make-up of his government.

The sources said that the 16-member National Bloc, the 18-member Constitution Bloc and the six-member independent Islamist Bloc have all given al-Sharif Zayd their blessing and support and left for him the task of deciding on how to form his government and how to divide the cabinet seats among parliamentarians and technocrats.

The nine-member Democratic Bloc, a representative of whom has met with al-Sharif Zayd, had said that the bloc would take final decision on their position towards the new government based on its final make-up and policy statement to Parliament.

The Muslim Brotherhood officially announced that it would not join al-Sharif Zayd's government but indicated its confidence vote would largely depend on the prime ministter's handling of internal issues.

An announcement by the movement Tuesday quoted its spiritual leader, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Al Khalifah, as saying that his movement will not participate in the new government "under the current circumstances."

"As for the issue of confidence, it is still too early (to make a decision)" the announcement said.

Commenting on the remark, a source close to al-Sharif Zayd said: "The statement is almost positive. We feel that options are still open (with the Muslim Brotherhood)."

He explained that many factors have entered the political landscape in Jordan since the idea of a Middle East peace conference was first proposed eight months ago. "A government is no longer judged by one issue alone," the source said. "There are a number of local issues that can influence that judgement as well as new factors that can influence the way Jordan's participation in the peace talks is perceived."

The source explained that if the selection of the team of cabinet members could indicate that they are "more able to resist pressures which would lead to concessions in Arab-Israeli talks then that perception could influence the way the negotiations are perceived."

The other change, the source said, "is the clarity of the Palestinian representation (in Arab-Israeli talks) and the legitimacy that the representation enjoys."

Rumours and unconfirmed reports over the make-up of the new government were rampant Tuesday, but all sources contacted by the Jordan Times insisted that it was premature to speculate on names and nothing was final yet.

Palestinian Delegation Head Interviewed on Visit

JN1911190191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, arrived in Amman today to attend ongoing coordination and consultation meetings between the two sides—the Jordanian and Palestinian sides within the framework of the joint delegation—in preparation for the coming stage. Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our correspondent for political affairs, held the following interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] To begin with, what is the agenda of your visit to Jordan, and how do you describe Jordanian-Palestinian coordination within the framework of the joint delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Coordination was and is proceeding very well. As everyone knows, coordination is required and is very much needed in order to face the Israeli delegation.

[Dhiyab] What about the agenda of this visit to Amman?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The purpose of the visit is to meet with members of the Palestinian delegation, in addition to meetings with the Jordanian delegation, in order to continue coordination and preparation for the next stage of bilateral talks.

[Dhiyab] How do you comment on the raid at the Islamic Sharia Courthouse in Jerusalem yesterday?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Of course, it is a very bad thing. I see no justification whatsoever for such behavior. It runs in harmony with the Israeli practices which we have known throughout the years of occupation.

[Dhiyab] How do you explain the entirety of Israeli practices or measures from the beginning of the peace conference until now?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The truth is that it seems that the Israelis are worried about the possibilities, and about what could result from the peace conference. Therefore, in any angry manner they make statements that would, as they expect, impede the determination of the participants, particularly the Palestinians and the Arabs, perhaps hoping that they would boycott the conference before it begins or something similar to that. However, we have proven our sincere and strong attitude toward this conference. We hope that the world will be proceeding, regardless of Israeli statements, toward attaining a just peace based on the principles of international legitimacy. [end recording]

Abu-Jabir on Participation in Peace Talks

JN1611090691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 91 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir Friday blasted a remark by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he rejected giving up occupied Arab territories, by saying the Israeli leader should be called to answer for his statement by the negotiations' two co-sponsors.

Jordan is operating in the Middle East peace negotiations on the principle of land for peace, as embedded in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and international legitimacy, Dr. Abu-Jabir reaffirmed.

Dr. Abu-Jabir reiterated Jordan's basis for participating in the negotiations hours after Mr. Shamir said that Israel would not withdraw "from an inch of land before leaving Tel Aviv for Washington this weekend.

"If we are not talking about land and international legitimacy, then what are we talking about?" asked Dr.

Abu-Jabir. Mr. Shamir, Dr. Abu-Jabir said, could be making these declarations, which effectively nullify the 'raison d'etre' of the negotiations, for his Likud party voters who are "nibbling at his heels."

"Shamir said in his speech in Madrid that the issue was not territory but existence. Well, where are the Palestinians supposed to exist, up in the air?" Dr. Abu-Jabir asked.

If Mr. Shamir was serious about his remarks which would indicate that there was no chance of territorial concessions, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that Mr. Shamir would have to answer to the negotiations' co- sponsors about his attitude.

As Mr. Shamir got on the plane to Washington, Israeli police recommended Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi be prosecuted for allegedly meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

If action were to be taken against Dr. 'Ashrawi, Dr. Abu-Jabir said, "it would be tragic."

"Any action taken against Dr. 'Ashrawi is a challenge to the international community, international legality and freedom of speech and association," Dr. Abu-Jabir said.

Hoping that any action taken by Israel would not go beyond harassment because anything beyond that would constitute "a huge step backwards for the peace process," Dr. Abu-Jabir said. It "will be further Israeli entrenchment, both ideological and procedural."

The Palestinian delegation and its coordination committee are expected to arrive in Amman Sunday, Dr. Abu-Jabir said, to coordinate and prepare for the next phase of the peace negotiations, which are expected to commence in several weeks.

Mr. Shamir is expected to discuss the venue of the second round of the peace negotiations with members of the Bush administration. While most of the Arab delegations to the peace talks have showed a preference for Washington as a venue, the Israelis have said that they prefer Cyprus.

Government Condemns Israeli Storming of Court

JN1911081891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn last night telephoned His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. His majesty discussed with King Hassan II the storming at noon yesterday of the Islamic Court in Jerusalem by the Israeli forces.

In a statement by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the Jordanian Government condemned the reported storming yesterday afternoon of the Islamic Court in Jerusalem by the Israeli border police and security forces.

In a statement to JNA, he said this unprecedented crime further reaffirms Israel's aggressive policy that is based on disrespect for historical and religious values and encroachment on the religious and civilian rights in the holy city. It aims at offending the feelings of millions so as to empty the peace process of its substance.

Dr. Abu-Jabir emphasized that soon after receiving these reports, the Jordanian Government contacted the United States and the parties concerned with the peace process to explain the seriousness and dimensions of this act, which encroaches on and endangers the Islamic Palestinian endowments that have been preserved for more than 500 years. These documents illustrate the history of the city throughout different stages of its deep-rooted heritage.

He stressed that the Jordanian Government will follow up the matter with sisterly Arab and other countries to prevent the recurrence of such unjustifiable measures and to ensure the return of the stolen documents.

Meanwhile, the Higher Islamic Council in the occupied Palestinian territories called for a general strike today to protest the storming of the Islamic Court building in Jerusalem by the Israeli security forces and the unlawful removal of historical documents.

At a press conference at the court headquarters in occupied Jerusalem, the Council stressed that the storming operation targeted the files of the endowment properties of real estate in Jerusalem and elsewhere in occupied Palestine.

The Council said it is making an inventory of the remaining documents to determine those that have been confiscated.

The Islamic Court in Jerusalem possesses all documents on the endowment properties in Palestine over the past 500 years, in addition to historical documents on the holy city.

Royal Committee Condemns Move

JN1911131091 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Royal Committee on Jerusalem has appealed to the Arab as well as the Islamic worlds to condemn the storming of the Islamic Shari'a Courthouse in Jerusalem yesterday by Israeli occupation authorities. In a statement issued in Amman this morning, the committee said the occupation authorities seized historic and legal records, and documents hundreds of years old.

The statement appealed to the United States, which is the co-sponsor of the Middle East peace conference, to act with a view to stopping Israeli transgressions against the holy city. It said that this criminal action is a clear indication of Israel's disrespect of the United Nations and the Geneva Convention, as well as the bad intentions towards the peace process.

The statement said the Royal Committee on Jerusalem is following up this issue with a view to retrieving the documents seized, and it said that copies of these documents, dating back to between 1536 to 1948, are kept at the University of Jordan.

Al-Hattab Explains Interview With Israel TV

JN1511131391 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 16-22 Nov 91 p 19

["Weeklies" column by Sultan al-Hattab entitled: "Not Self- Defense, But a Defense of Truth: Your Friend Has Not Gone Astray"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The onslaught that has been launched against me will achieve nothing as long as my endeavors are for the sake of the homeland and our people's rights, and to support our people's struggle, sacrifices, and self-determination. As for the tendency to kill individuality, level accusations, and to be involved in clandestine attempts to strike at our people's social structure and our homeland's unity, such attempts will be doomed to failure if we remember how to defend our convictions calmly, wisely, and knowingly.

This onslaught will not undermine our will, and will amount to nothing more than dishonest, sick lines written in columns paid for by evil and hostile powers.

Dear readers, you who appreciates stands and words, and who distinguishes between truth and falsehood: You are the best standard and judge. Deceivers are trying to capitalize on your rights. However, awareness is the light that will replace darkness and will weaken the parasites.

I have not been engaged in normalization; nor do I believe in normalization. However, I wanted the voice of this dear homeland to be raised at all forums and through all channels. Our battle today is like the battle fought by the Jordanian soldier yesterday, and perhaps the one that will be fought tomorrow. Our weapons in this battle are the brain, knowledge, the pen, and our will. As we fight this battle and we work to invigorate our energies toward that end, there are children facing starvation, fire, blockade, and occupation, and appealing for a bottle of medicine, a bandage, a school book, the right to have a moment free of Israeli aggressors standing at the doors of their homes or confiscating their toys in the alleys or in their homes. However, advocates of the dark and the brainless want to feed those children speeches and empty rhetoric, oblivious to their pain and to their rights.

They considered my effort to carry the homeland's message of peace, and to refute the adversary's arguments in his own home, normalization. They do not know what normalization means. They do not even distinguish between taking the offensive and being on the defensive, nor between truth and falsehood. Thus, they began to spread accusations without asking or looking for facts, and without seeking to know the reasons, motives, and even the results. Rather, they resorted to their secret and public practice of killing individuality.

As King Husayn said, we were in Madrid to defend Jordan. We did not claim to be carrying bombs or weapons to liberate Palestine from the sea to the river.

We were in Madrid to make the world listen to our voice as people who have been victimized, wronged, attacked, and had their land occupied. We did not go for bullfighting or muscle flexing, to hide our heads in the sand, nor to run from one room to another so that the enemy would not see our faces or hear our voices.

We have an opinion which serves the national interest. We are not in support of normalization, capitulation, or even peace without a price.

We support peace and our right to defend our homeland, and the cause of our nation and people in Palestine. That is what the valiant negotiating Palestinian team did, and thus they merit all the appreciation and hospitality of its people in its homeland, irrespective of their divergent views and interpretations. This is what we did as a Jordanian delegation. We have the right for our people, with their divergent views, to stand along side us, as King Husayn did in his speech before the national conference, with the Jordanian delegation. This delegation stressed our positions, defended Arab rights, and supported our right to constantly work for and contribute to the peace process.

I am neither hesitant nor afraid, because I am not being accused by any wise, conscientious, or patriotic person. Therefore, I pity those who blame me because I stood with my head high; eloquent and fearless. I pity those who ask why I wrote for Iraq and defend it with my pen if I am to do this now.

Yes, I defended Iraq, and will continue to do so. Iraq is our conscience. What I did was in defense of my national vision to serve my homeland and its interest and survival. Anyone who failed to understand me should reread my position. We are not in the midst of a "big sale" on one-upmanship. A true journalist is the one who manages to see the truth. [passage omitted]

Comment: Expulsion of Writer al-Hattab 'Stupid'

JN1911091691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 91 p 4

["The View from Fourth Circle" by Rami G. Khuri: "Treason or Simplicity? The Battle is engaged"]

[Text] The recent decision by the Jordanian Journalists' Association to expel Sultan al-Hattab and ban him from writing in Jordan because he gave an interview to Israeli television during the Madrid peace talks is both sad and simplistic—but perhaps inevitable during this moment of transition of transformation in the Middle East. I have met Mr. al-Hattab once or twice, shaken his hand, and probably exchanged a total of about two minutes of

pleasantries with him. I do not read his articles regularly, and am not familiar with his political views, so I have no personal interest in defending him.

I say the move against him is stupid because it is an exaggerated emotional response based on outdated and failed Arab political principles. It also runs contrary to the whole trend of political action principles. It also runs contrary to the whole trend of political action that we are involved in right now, and that defines the emerging new global reality of conflict-resolution through negotiations based on international law. It reflects the worst aspects of the Arab political mind and character.

The whole concept of the Madrid conference is to engage the Israelis in a political battle for peace and justice, in order to obtain the rights promised to us by international law and U.N. resolutions. We are unable to obtain those rights today through military action, due to the combination of Israeli militaristic frenzy, American acquiescence, and our own Arab political imcompetence. Diplomacy, dialogue, negotiations and compremise are the means we have chosen as the best available alternative.

If our foreign minister and a large delegation of Jordanians, along with their colleagues from Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the Gulf, and North Africa, are sitting in the same room and on the same table with the prime minister of Israel, looking him in the eye, and talking to him about peace, justice and coexistence—what is this if not engaging the enemy on the battleground of diplomacy and rational discussion? Jordan Television and Radio cover the peace talks. Jordanian officials, journalists and others in Madrid routinely meet with Israelis for off-the-record discussions. Jordanian academics share platforms with Israelis at international academic conferences. Jordanian passport holders living under Israeli occupation routinely meet with Israelis for political discussions. Jordanian diplomats around the world engage in diplomatic gatherings where Israelis are present, notably in the United Nations. Arab writers often have dailies reprint articles from the Israeli media. Many Arabs share stages with Israelis, debating, arguing, and generally working hard for our Arab national rights, fighting for peace and justice. Is all of this treason? If so, then half the Arab intelligentsia, and many government officials, should be locked up in jail, and Mr. al-Hattab should not suffer alone.

In this context, giving an interview to Israeli television is not an act of treason, but rather of rational and useful diplomatic engagement and political action. On my weekly interview show on Jordan Television, both the management of JTV and I share the view that one of our purposes is to address the people of Israel, to inform them, challenge them, engage them, shame them, and dare them to rise to the promise of peace and justice for all in this region. We have other audiences and objectives, of course, but this is clearly one of them. I often ask my guests to address the Israeli people directly, to send them messages, warnings, admonitions or exhortations, and this is done regularly, as it was done by no less judicious a guest than His Majesty King Husayn.

It seems to me that one of the strongest tools we have in this stage of the historic national and diplomatic battle between Arabism and Zionism is our access to the mass media. We complained for many years that the Western press ignored us. Then we said that our own press was not credible. Well, things are different today. We have our own media with which we can address the enemy, if not the whole world. We have much greater access to the international media. And, we even have access to the Israeli media, which strikes me as a potentially important weapon in the battle we suffer.

To use the Israeli media to deliver our message directly to the Israeli people seems rather important—if we know how to use the media to our advantage. The Palestinians living under Israeli occupation do it all the time. Are we going to be more Palestinians than the Palestinians, more noble than nobility itself? Why do the Israelis make use of their media, and of the major Western media, as an effective tool of war, while we view our use of the Israeli media as an act of weakness, submission, and treason? Is it that we are stupid, or simply that we have been so psychologically bludgeoned by the Israelis that we allow them—once again—to anticipate and manipulate our exaggerated emotional reactions, and to defeat us through the consistency of our own self-destructive political provincialism and intellectual antiquity?

We would be fools—and we were, for many years, and many amongst us still are—to close our eyes to the full nature of the diplomatic struggle and to refuse to use every possible means of action available to us. To give an interview to Israeli television during the Madrid peace talks strikes me as a rather clever and useful move by Mr. al-Hattab. In that context, I think it was both acceptable and potentially productive. Mr. al-Hattab did not travel to Israeli Television, al-Sadat-like, and offer his services. He did not seek out the Israelis with an eye to signing a contract with them. He did not go out of his way to establish a long-term commercial agreement by which he would do regular commentaries for them. He did not offer to live in perpetual subjugation to the Israeli imperial will. He looked the enemy in the face, and told the truth—about our humanity, our rights, our hopes, and their violence and shortsightedness.

Mr. al-Hattab simply did what was the logical conclusion of the diplomatic effort that has defined this region since, oh, the 1973 Palestine National Council decision to set up an independent Palestinian authority on any part of liberated Palestine. There is general consensus on Palestinian and pan-Arab goals vis-a-vis the struggle with Israel. There is an actual face-to-face negotiation in progress. Arab and Israeli officials are shaking hands, making speeches, and every other minute doing battle before the television cameras of the world.

Madrid was a media circus, a jamboree of lights, sound and action, a magical stage for the Palestinian and the

other Arabs to dance as they have never danced before, to address the planet, and to dazzle the world. Television was the primary medium at Madrid. Israel was the ultimate audience we had to reach. Therefore, I would have thought it logical for us to use the most powerful medium available to reach the most important audience around. But we seem to fear logic, and to shun the new world mechanisms of power at our disposal. Mr. al-Hattab acted logically and rationally. It is not treason for him to address the Israelis over their own television—no more than our foreign minister sitting at the same table with the Israeli delegation—and it is certainly not the dangerous "normalisation" of relations with Israel that many people fear. Or is it more effective to ignore the Israelis, and instead to keep sending messages of fraternal support to the people of Brunei and Zimbabwe?

It would be a major service to the Palestinian and Arab cause we seek to serve for the Jordanian Journalists Association to snap out of its historic and professional sleep, and to grasp the power of the media as a tool of public diplomacy. We are very good at blaming the Western media for allowing itself to fall under the control or undue influence of pro-Israeli forces, but what do we do about it within our own journalistic horizons? Where are the members of the Jordanian Journalists Association who can provide the quality reporting and analysis that can be used internationally as a tool of battle, and as an intellectual sword of Arabism? Where are those Jordanian journalists who would stop acting like victims, and start thinking like victors? The harsh and emotional reaction to Mr. al-Hattab's interview should not be dismissed or forgotten, because it hides an important political and psychological reality that we shall continue to deal with in the immediate future. The last two generations of Arabs, born and raised within an intellectual and political context of defeat, denial and deprivation, are suddenly asked today to forget the rules that have defined their entire lives. They are told today that it is all right to negotiate with Israelis, to self-rule as a transitional arrangement, even to place their trust in the promise that the United States—as much the Great Satan for most Arabs as for the Iranians—has suddenly been transformed into our friend, our saviour, our protector, and the source of our deliverance from suffering, defeat, denial and deprivation.

It is all a bit too much to take in at one time. The Arab mind is congested, even confused. Our intellectual and emotional anchors have been moved suddenly, our world turned upside down, our sacred notions of national goodness thrown out the window. Mr. al-Hattab is the unfortunate victim of the Arab masses groping for their lost anchor, desperately holding on to a rope from the 1950s, clinging on to an escape route to the past should the current peace effort fail. It would be much more effective if we mustered our resources to fight our way to a better future, instead of succumbing to the fears, rigidities, mediocrities, and failures of the past. Either we get in there and fight for our place and our rights in the new world order we hear about, or we shall be condemned forever to suffer the perpetual humiliation and human deprivation of being the last, permanent victims of the bad old order.

Hizballah Denies Waite Kidnap Allegations

NC1911185291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] On arrival at a British base in the west of England, Terry Waite said his captors told him that they hope the two German hostages will be released before the end of this year. He added that the captors gave no additional details about the two Germans. In his statement, Waite twice accused Hizballah of holding him. A responsible Hizballah source in Beirut, however, this evening categorically denied any involvement in the kidnapping of hostages. The source told AFP: We have absolutely nothing to do with this issue.

Hostage Holders 'Anxious' About Pan Am Probe

PM1911091491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Hostage Holders Worried About Files, Want Guarantees That They Will Not Be Pursued"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to informed sources in Beirut, the people holding the Western hostages in Lebanon have learned with anxiety about the results of the investigations into the Pan Am aircraft explosion over Lockerbie and the reports that charges have been brought against two Libyan security officials.

The sources say that the hostage holders see the opening of old files, the international arrest warrants, and the requests that the wanted persons or suspects be handed over as a precedent that could extend to everyone who has contributed to hostage taking.

The sources add that the hostage holders regard the current phase as a wait-and-see period until the course of the U.S.-Libyan crisis becomes clear.

The hostage holders, the sources say, feel that the current international developments will compel them to release their hostages, with the kidnappers themselves eventually becoming hostages as the sword of pursuit hangs over their heads. They add that the hostage holders wonder where would be a safe place for them to live and what would prevent the United States in the future from putting pressure on the Lebanese Government to hand them over. The sources also say that over the past few months the hostage holders have detected increasing Western moves in the direction of al-Biqa' in seach of more detailed information about their identity.

Sources close to the hostage holders say that the United States now has a huge network of channels, including Arab and Lebanese ones, for obtaining information about hostage holders. They accuse some Lebanese official circles of providing Western authorities with information about where the hostages are being held and the names of those in charge of their security.

The sources further say that at present the hostage holders believe that Iran is the only country that might receive them and give them sufficient protection and reassurance, but at the same time they wonder what would happen if some day Tehran were to decide to "normalize" its relations with Washington.

The sources add that officials of the groups holding the hostages are now fully convinced that the release of more Western hostages is now bound to be conditional on a public and written promise from U.S. President Bush that the United States will not, either now or at any time in the future, take any measures to pursue the hostage holders.

Diplomatic sources believe that it would be difficult for President Bush to give such a promise publicly because he cannot prevent any former hostage from resorting to U.S. justice. The diplomatic sources do not rule out the possibility that the U.S.-Libyan crisis could complicate the hostage release process, but the same sources believe that the the kidnappers have little room for maneuver left because their continued detention of the hostages would increase the chances of their pursuit and would strengthen the call for the hostages file to be reopened from the very beginning and for all individuals, parties, and states involved to be brought to account.

Hizballah Source Affirms Resistance To Continue

NC1311072191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] In a statement to AL-DIYAR, a responsible Hizballah source said that raising the issue of Israeli withdrawal from Jazzin is an obvious maneuver against the resistance and the people's steadfastness. The source described such proposals as heresy, affirming that the resistance will continue until all the occupied territory is liberated.

Mosad Said Involved in University Explosion

NC1911130991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib chaired a security meeting at 1000 local time today, attended by Major General Muhammad Qubrusli, director general of the Internal Security Forces; Brigadier General Samir Sha'rani, commander of the police; Brigadier General Mahmud Fawwaz, commander of the embassies security force; Colonel Michel Rahbani, chief of military intelligence; and Dr. As'ad Diyab, military investigating judge.

According to exclusive NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY information, they discussed the latest results of the investigation into the car bomb which went off at the American University of Beirut [AUB]. Preliminary results prove a clear Israeli Mosad connection.

The security services have worked from the start to collect material evidence that could lead to the perpetrators. High-level security sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that all parts of the booby-trapped car, including its engine, had been found. Security services have checked all Volkswagen cars entering Lebanon, pursuing all suspects. Investigators now have some leads that could uncover the other perpetrators.

Israeli Espionage Network Charged

NC2011082291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR has revealed information about an espionage and terrorism network that works for Israel. It says that it was this network that bombed the American University of Beirut's [AUB] College Hall building. The network has links with Husayn 'Abd-al-Nabi, an official of Antoine Lahd border's strip militia, and its members are active in various Lebanese areas.

AL-SAFIR adds that according to available information, the network's chief operative is called Pierre and lives in Juniyah. It continues that a young woman who is a principal member of the network drove the booby-trapped car onto the AUB campus. Several days after the bombing, she was shot and killed in Ra's Bayrut by Pierre.

Israelis Raid Village, Attack Residents in South

NC2011072691 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] At dawn today the occupation forces perpetrated a new massacre against our people in the south. A joint Zionist-Lahdist unit infiltrated the township of Majdal Silm at 0115 today and stormed the house of citizen Hamzah Yasin, firing a hail of bullets. The citizen's 11-year-old daughter was killed and three other daughters and their mother were injured. 'Atif Yasin, a neighbor, also was wounded. The occupation forces arrested Hamzah Yasin, his sons Wi'am and Husam, and his brother Hasan. They then demolished his house and the house of citizen Muhammad Haydar Zahwah.

The attacking force then withdrew under the cover of a barrage of artillery fire from 155-mm gun emplacements in (al-'Ibbad). The Islamic health society transferred the wounded and the body of the martyred girl to the Tibnin hospital, where it was learned that she had been hit by 20 bullets.

Fadlallah Discusses Water Issue, Israel

NC1211102591 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 8 Nov 91 p 7

[Interview with Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizballah, by Nihad Tubalyan; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Tubalyan] The third stage of Arab-Israeli negotiations will be multilateral talks during which the negotiators will discuss regional water, territory, and other issues. It is known that Israel covets Lebanon's al-Litani River. Do you have any fear about this issue?

[Fadlallah] In my Friday political sermons, I was the first to note that Lebanon needs to conclude one agreement on security and another one on water within the framework of the political agreement taking place under the slogan of peace with Israel. We have noted the complications of Resolution 425—which was a U.S. proposal about which the Soviet Union expressed reservations—and the pressure exerted on all those who attempted to implement its security and political components. These complications stem from the premise that it was necessary to create an active and chronic problem that would necessitate Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. The question of withdrawal would then be placed within the context of all Lebanese-Israeli relations in accordance with Israel's concept of security, economic and political interests, and Lebanese reality. We have detected some signs of this in the comments of the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon and of John Kelly during his visits to Lebanon. In addition, signs have also emerged in political speeches and statements.

We believe Israel needs Lebanon's waters. These waters would cost Israel nothing because they are on Palestine's border; therefore, Israel would not need long pipes or to enter into talks with other countries, such as it plans to do to buy water from Turkey and the Nile. Purchasing the water would cost a lot; Lebanese waters would cost nothing. We have also noted that Israel now benefits from Lebanon's waters through the short pipes that supply the Palestinian lands with water that Israel is stealing from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

We notice that there is a U.S.-supervised international policy to share water in the region, particularly Lebanese water. We noticed this in the 1950's in Johnston's plan, which took account of Israel's water needs just like the Arab regions' needs. We want to tell the Lebanese regime that any government that concedes a single drop of water to Israel is a traitor to the people. We are not being demagogic or emotional by using such a strong word; we are talking in a reasonable, calm, and objective way that takes into account the regime's duties and responsibilities and the people's rights and needs.

We know that there is thirst in Lebanon. The citizens and the land both thirst for water. We also know that even if every single drop of Lebanese water is used, the needs of the Lebanese would not be met. The need for water is doubling. This is why we believe Lebanon lacks adequate water resources. An agreement to give the usurping Zionist entity any water means that the regime would be relinquishing one of the nation's vital needs, that the regime would be contributing to the citizens' thirst and agricultural backwardness, which is the result of the absence of water projects and its inability to satisfy

needs. We are, therefore, telling the Lebanese regime to put this question to a referendum if the United States is pressuring it and to reject the United States so that no other future regime would dare accept such an agreement. [passage omitted]

[Tubalyan] The Israelis could argue that the waters are flowing uselessly into the sea, that we are not using them, and that the state is not carrying out any projects while they are in desperate need of the water.

[Fadlallah] Our studies show that behind-the-scenes international and regional policies prevented the state from implementing water projects. The international policies that acted through Israeli hands prevented the region from exploiting its water resources. We know how Israel attacked the machinery brought to implement certain projects approved by the Arab League to exploit Syrian and Lebanese waters and how the projects were then halted. What we are saying is that the state has not undertaken water projects because of international pressure and the red lines the United States and Israel have drawn which the state cannot cross. If these lines are erased, the state can tell the United States and Palestine: We want to undertake water projects that would satisfy Lebanon's needs and we will give any surplus to another country.

[Tubalyan] Israel is openly benefiting from the waters of the al-Wazzani and al-Hasbani Rivers. Have you confirmed that Israel is stealing from the al-Litani River?

[Fadlallah] We have information about this issue. We can see the drop in the level of al-Litani River in al-Qasimiyah where the river turns into a mere trickle. We have no explanation for this except that Israel is stealing the water.

[Tubalyan] What would be your stand if pressure is placed on the Lebanese negotiators to concede Lebanese waters?

[Fadlallah] We will strongly reject any such plan. We will view any Lebanese regime that relinquishes the Lebanese people's water resources as one that robs its people, one that is incapable of shouldering its responsibilities.

[Tubalyan] As a fundamentalist Islamic movement, your relationship with Syria is good. Yet we see that you oppose the peace conference in which Syria is participating. How do you explain this?

[Fadlallah] I have said that there is a point which the Syrian leadership has reiterated and we have repeatedly heard; namely, that there is a difference between the state and the revolution in the dynamism of political action. The state might be subject to certain pressure as a result of its security or political circumstances while the revolution is not. This makes the state open to the general and fateful political strategy on the Palestinian question and the Arab question in general. The state appreciates the revolution's stand of rejecting all U.S. pressures. We believe that the Syrian leadership represents a specific type of leadership in the Arab world because it is the one that thinks strategically. I believe that our political ambitions are the same. Syria is now waging a political battle that requires political tools due to the exigencies of the stage. Syria has said that the negotiations do not represent a recognition of Israel or a concession but a movement in the political struggle Syria is acting to win.

We [word indistinct] the political statement we heard and which reflect the stand that says: We will not relinquish a single inch of the occupied territories which we can get back. I believe, therefore, that our absolute rejection of Israel and of U.S. pressure is in line with the Syrian leadership. I do not believe there are any differences on strategy; differences on tactics is another matter.

On Madrid, Resistance in South

NC1511195091 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 8 Nov 91 pp 16,19

[Friday sermon by Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah at the Bi'r al-'Abd Mosque in Beirut on 1 November]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] All roads lead to Madrid these days, as they say. Those who chose Madrid as the venue for the conference wanted to remind the Muslims and the Arabs of their defeat in Andalusia and thus tell them they now must give up Palestine. The Arabs are being reminded of the loss of Andalusia so they can stomach the loss of Palestine. [passage omitted]

In his speech at the opening of the conference, the U.S. President supported most of Israel's demands. He spoke about Israel's security, meaning that Israel took the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and a large piece of Lebanese territory called the security zone on the pretext of security. In speaking about security, Bush has given Israel more than he has given it in the letter of assurances.

He spoke about the need for Israel's qualitative superiority. In other words, the Arabs should keep their heads down before Israel because it will remain the stronger and because the United States will continue to provide it with all the means of strength. He spoke about guaranteeing Israel's security but did not mention Arab security. [passage omitted]

What did the U.S. President say? The United States makes a statement in the morning only to deny it in the evening. The United States is a compulsive liar, but in a diplomatic way. Judging from the history of U.S. support for Israel, we must ask: Are the U.S. and Israeli interests harmonious, identical, and based on a common strategic line? Yes, they are. [passage omitted]

What does the Islamic and national resistance in Lebanon want? It wants the Jews to leave our land. It wants

the Jews to leave Bint Jubayl, Marj 'Uyun, and Hasbayya. It is our land. The Jews are intruders in our land. If we confront them, we are called terrorists! [passage omitted] We in Lebanon call on the U.S. ambassador, who issues instructions daily, and the Soviet ambassador to visit the south and western al-Biqa'. We guarantee their safety. We invite them to go there and see the destruction, misery, thirst, and hunger and to find out who are the terrorists—their Israeli allies or the resistance fighters. [passage omitted]

Israel has imposed a blockade on Bra'shit, 'Ayta, Haddatha, Yuhmur, and Arnun. On what basis? We have not heard a word from the United States and the Soviet Union about the suffering and pain of the inhabitants of Yuhmur and Arnun. Are they not humans? [passage omitted]

We ask the American, French, British, and other people who speak about the justice of the Israeli cause: What would your position be if we, the Muslims, were to displace the inhabitants of Texas and establish an Islamic republic there at the expense of the people of Texas? [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Planned Army Recruitment Drive

NC1011145991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr told our radio today that as of the beginning of next year between 10,000 and 15,000 individuals will be recruited into the army for 18 months of national service.

He said that this recruitment is a separate process from the assimilation of former militiamen into the army.

He said that those to whom the national service law applies can be exempt from service by paying approximately 900,000 Lebanese pounds.

Letter on Settlements Given to UN Chief

JN1511063891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] In New York, the deputy chief of the Syrian mission to the United Nations handed a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regarding Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied Golan Heights.

The message says that the establishment of a new Israeli settlement, Qela', in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and the Israeli settlement minister's statements, both coinciding with the convocation of the Madrid peace conference, reaffirms Israel's true intentions toward entrenching occupation, implementing its expansionist schemes at the expense of the Arab territories, and obstructing international peace efforts.

The message affirms that Syria believes UN resolutions must be abided by and implemented, and that international legitimacy must be respected. The message deems Israel's failure to implement these resolutions as defiance of international legitimacy and the United Nations. The message demands firm measures be adopted to confront this defiance.

Al-'Allaf: Peace Before Israeli Multilateral Talks

JN0811215291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1911 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian negotiating delegation to the bilateral talks that followed the Madrid peace conference, by unidentified correspondent within the weekly program: "Spotlight on Events"; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] A few days ago, the inauguration phase of the Madrid Middle East peace conference, cosponsored by the United States and the USSR, came to an end. The conference was termed highly significant, and a historic opportunity for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Syria underscored the need for establishing this peace on the basis of the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. It pleases us today to interview Mr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the bilateral talks which emanated from the peace conference, to tell us about the proceedings of this conference, and also about the outcome of the inauguration phase. Mr. Muwaffaq, welcome to Syrian Arab television. Would you please start by telling us about the accomplishments the Arabs scored through their participation in this conference?

[Al-'Allaf] The Arab parties have realized numerous positive media and psychological gains at this conference. As you have just said, the conference was a large world demonstration, in which the world saw for the first time the major parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict sitting together. The world listened, without the intervention of the media propaganda orchestrated by this or that party, to the parties concerned. Likewise, the world was given the chance to judge for itself how true and sincere these parties are in their quest for a just and durable peace. Since the Arab parties are parties supported by right, backed by international legitimacy and UN resolutions, the Arab parties, without exception, have managed to convince the world public of the justness of the Arab cause, of the justness of Arab positions; whereas Israel was exposed before all, thanks to its intransigent determination not to accept any actual implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The world has known details of the actual causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict. From the speech delivered by the head of the Israeli delegation, the Israeli prime minister, the world also managed to see how this Israeli official views the issue of peace. The man said: If you are going to raise anything related to our withdrawal from the territories we occupied, you would be torpedoing the conference. The world public has ascertained that the Arabs have a sincere desire to achieve peace.

One more positive point: We managed to pull the rug from under Israel, which always claimed that the Arabs do not want peace, because they do not want to hold direct talks with us. The fact that the Arabs accepted talks within this context has now confirmed to the world that the Arabs do not refrain from talking to their enemy to achieve a just and durable peace. Syria, which is viewed by Israel as its most mortal enemy, by merely attending the peace conference has proven false all of Israel's claims regarding the lack of desire for peace on Syria's part. At the same time, through its firm position against any concessions or forfeiture of Arab rights, Syria has assured Arab peoples and the Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf that talks at a peace conference do not mean that rights are going to be forfeited. Rather, this means attempting to implement resolutions of international legitimacy and reach a settlement that would not forfeit any rights, but rather ensure to all Arabs, and not only Syria [sentence incomplete as heard].

[Correspondent] All Arab peoples.

[Al-'Allaf] Syria has always said: The issue does not only concern the Golan. The issue concerns the Golan, the other occupied Arab territories, as well as the rights of the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] At the same time, Mr. Muwaffaq, it transpired that Israel came and declared that it rejects the land-for-peace principle, opposes the halting of settlement building, and that it seeks at the same time to realize the peace-for-peace principle. This has been made clear through proceedings of the conference.

[Al-'Allaf] This is what I have said. Every time it spoke, Israel showed itself as a party attempting to evade the undertaking of any pledge or real commitment that would convince the world. We are convinced that they are not serious. We, however, were attempting to show the world that we were there, and ask the world to listen to the Israeli enemy talking about its intentions and see

how it justifies its occupation and aggression on the Arab nation. In general, we realized these gains by the mere sitting at table during the first round of talks, by the mere convocation of the conference.

[Correspondent] Mr. Muwaffaq, this brings us to the following question: Why have Israel and some other Western sources termed the Syrian position as hard-line?

[Al-'Allaf] It goes without saying that Israel views any adherence to rights as a form of inflexibility. It believes that any demand for implementing UN resolutions is a form of strictness. However, this Israeli argument was refuted, as I have said, before the world public. On the contrary, people saw in the Syrian delegation's speech delivered by Mr. Faruq al-Shar' a convincing, serious, and unmistakably clear reflection of Syria's desire to achieve peace, even though this speech showed adherence to the basic components and principles governing the Syrian Arab position. Throughout the inauguration of the conference, during the sessions, and even after the start of bilateral talks, Syria put up with many maneuvers. It held out, thanks to adherence to instructions issued by the leader president, urging us to remain patient as long as our rights are not undermined. The instructions also asked us to show patience with any attempt meant to provoke us into walking out of the conference. This steadfastness and patience of ours allowed us to score several points, which can be viewed as gains, not only for Syria, but for all Arab parties.

[Correspondent] We also saw these provocations during the foreign minister's press conference, when an Israeli media delegation entered the Syrian press room and began to raise a clamor.

[Al-'Allaf] [passage omitted] With regard to the accusations charging Syria with espousing a hard-line position, how can he who is demanding the implementation of a UN resolution be so charged? Syria has not demanded anything other than the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the realization of the land-for-peace principle. This principle was not authored by Syria. President Bush spoke of this principle. The sponsors of the conference spoke of it. And the world community espouses this principle. This is the basic principle enshrined in Resolution 242, which provides for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. Syria spoke of terms and principles acceptable to all members of the world community, including Israel. This is because Israel voted in favor of Resolution 242—or accepted Resolution 242—because the voting was done by the Security Council. Israel, the Arab parties, as well as the world community accepted this resolution. Besides, Israel's acceptance of President Bush's initiative regarding the holding of a peace conference, and the holding of bilateral talks was based on the two aforesaid resolutions and this principle. The Syrian position is termed hard-line because Syria is demanding the implementation of these two resolutions. Meanwhile, the whole world said that the true hard-line party is Israel. It is Syria [as heard] which attempted to provoke Arab sentiments. All people saw the Israeli prime minister charging Syria with terrorism, not to mention other accusations, a matter which exposed the true nature of Israel. What remained of the inaugural sessions was this splendid position by the head of the Syrian delegation when he said nothing, but rather showed a card with Shamir's photograph and on which the word "wanted" [preceding word in English] is printed. This showed in a nutshell the nature of the Israeli system. This is what was retained in the mind of public opinion.

[Correspondent] This showed who the real terrorist is.

[Al-'Allaf] Yes.

[Correspondent] Mr. Muwaffaq, what did it feel like conducting direct, bilateral talks with the Israeli side for the first time?

[Al-'Allaf] Negotiating with the enemy is a kind of confrontation. It has been said that negotiation is a continuation of the war in another guise. [passage omitted]

The Syrian Arab negotiator crossed a psychological barrier with confidence and faith, having been given wise instructions. Add to this our psychological preparations and adherence to our inalienable rights. We had been adequately supplied with instructions from the leadership. We went into the talks like we were entering a confrontation. In actual fact, a negotiator is a fighter rather than a capitulator. Negotiation is about tackling the enemy with demands, arguments, and not with the gun and rifle. This is not the time for the gun and rifle. The international community is calling upon us to try to solve our problems peacefully and by invoking the resolutions of international legitimacy, which is just we tried to do. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Why did Syria stick to the demand that all bilateral talks be conducted in one building rather than in three separate buildings as Israel wanted?

[Al-'Allaf] I thank you for this question, because Israeli and other circles sought to claim that Syria was not serious and did not care for peace and that it was placing obstacles in the path of the peace conference or the peace process. In actual fact, this is not a matter of form; it is one of substance. From the outset, Israel sought to separate the opening session of the peace conference from the subsequent bilateral talks. It also sought to divorce the multilateral talks that must be a corollary of successful bilateral negotiations and the peace conference as such. When it failed to achieve that end, due to Syria's insistence that the peace conference is a multistage affair.... [changes thought] You remember that when the conference chairman, the Soviet foreign minister, said the conference had concluded its opening sessions, the chief Syrian delegate Faruq al-Shar' intervened to say: Would you kindly correct your statement? The conference has adjourned, since the conference must be reconvened if the bilateral talks founder or reach

a logical conclusion. The conference chairman and all the parties concurred with the Syrian comment. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Israel claims Syria is not serious about peace, since it refuses to join multilateral talks called by the cosponsors of the conference to begin in two to three weeks. Where does Syria stand on that score?

[Al-'Allaf] This is crucially important to us in Syria, as luckily it is for all Arabs. The so-called multilateral talks will address issues related to regional cooperation—economic cooperation, the environment, water-sharing, disarmament, and the refugees. It is inconceivable to discuss such issues as long as the causes underlying the absence of such regional relations remain unresolved, namely the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, represented in Israel's occupation of Arab land and violation of the Palestinian peoples' and other Arab peoples' rights. [passage omitted]

While Israel is occupying the Golan Heights, Jerusaelm, the West Bank and Gaza, and southern Lebanon, it wants to sit down for talks with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians to discuss economic cooperation, water-sharing, and the environment. The trouble is that Israel will not limit these issues to the principal parties to the dispute. It wants to include other Arab countries, the states far from the confrontation line. It seeks to involve even non-Arab states. Israel wants to talk to Arab Gulf and Arab Maghreb states, and it wants these brotherly states that support Arab rights and frontline states.... [changes thought] It wants such countries as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia to sit down and explore with it economic cooperation, water-sharing, the environment, before we know if Israel is serious about complying with UN resolutions, withdrawal from the occupied land, and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. Therefore, from the outset, Syria pointed out to the sponsor of the conference, the United States, and all Western parties .... [changes thought] Regrettably, the Western parties and the conference sponsor once said: We agree with you that these matters can be addressed only after peace is established, but why not consider these subjects simultaneously with the bilateral talks, so as to show Israel what it will gain in the end, and thus demonstrate flexibility. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Muwaffaq, there is too much talk now about the date and venue for the bilateral talks. In your opinion, where and when will these talks convene?

[Al-'Allaf] The efforts of the cosponsors of the conference have so far not resulted in setting a specific venue. As for us, the Syrian side, we went to Madrid after lengthy consultations on the venue of the peace conference. We never thought that after all these efforts, there would be a need to move from one place to another, and from one country to another if we actually desire and seek peace. We welcomed Madrid as a friendly and neutral venue. Our delegation was formed on the basis that it will stay there for whatever time it takes to achieve peace. Israel, however, which always places obstacles, and as I said, wants to get free gains without meeting its obligations regarding the peace equation—without withdrawing, without recognizing Arab rights, and without announcing its intentions to withdraw—always seeks to create obstacles and comes up with certain moves to show that the Arabs have already recognized it without being forced to withdraw or to recognize rights. It obstinately and illogically insists on holding the talks in the region, in the areas where it occupies parts of the dear Arab territories, and in the areas where it reminds us of its violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples. Of course, Syria and all the other Arab sides have categorically rejected this. This is why the cosponsors of the conference are now trying to reach a compromise solution in this regard. If a neutral place were chosen—a place where all sides can enjoy the freedom of movement, a place where there are no obstacles that would prevent any Arab delegation from carrying out its duties of defending its rights in an attempt to achieve a just and comprehensive peace away from pressures and from anything that would make any delegation feel that it is unwelcome in that place—the Syrian leadership then would take this proposal by the cosponsors of the conference into consideration. Up to now, I, personally, have not been informed that any such proposal has been made. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] During the conference, the term confidence-building measures among the parties concerned was mentioned. What does this mean?

[Al-'Allaf] This is a U.S.-Western term describing the way through which differences between the West and East were settled before the recent developments in East Europe. [passage omitted] Regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, the basic and most important confidence-building measure is for you to end the aggression against the other party with whom you want to establish confidence. In accordance with international law, occupation is a continuous aggression. So how do you expect to establish confidence between you and the other party if you are still occupying his land. This is a continuous aggression. If Israel is serious about creating an atmosphere of confidence between it and the Arabs, it should end its occupation. It must at least officially and internationally pledge, before starting such serious talks, that it plans to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the other Arab peoples.

[Correspondent] But we see that even today it is shelling southern Lebanon and continuing to establish settlements?

[Al-'Allaf] Yes. This is its interpretation of confidence. Even during the peace conference it continued its shelling of southern Lebanon. We have also heard that it established a new settlement in the Golan Heights during the bilateral talks. All this proves that Israel's interpretation of peace and confidence differ from, not only the

Arab interpretation, but also from that of the international community. We believe that the Arabs were able to convince the world that they are serious about and desire peace, but a just and comprehensive peace. The Arab negotiator is going armed with the confidence of his people and the international community, and armed with the fact that he is a negotiator who is supported by right. I am going while supported by the UN resolutions and the resolutions of international legitimacy. He is going against the background of resolutions denouncing his occupation. I am going to demand issues that the international community has demanded, while he is going to ask for fascist matters that are not recognized even by his allies. In light of this, I believe that the Arab position is strong, and that we should continue with the peace process. If we can achieve our full rights—the enemy's withdrawal from all our occupied territories and recognition of our people's rights—then we think that we have peacefully achieved results that we have been seeking to achieve for a long time. However, if we could not do so, due to the Israeli intransigence and maneuvering, then I believe that the international community will be on our side more than at any time before, because it will admit that the Arabs have done all they could to achieve a just and durable peace, and that the true obstacle to peace is Israel, its fascism, policy, and nature.

[Correspondent] Thank you for this important interview.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you.

Information Minister on Adherence to Madrid

JN1011154691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman said: We went to the Madrid conference because we want to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and on all fronts. We will continue to follow that path, which represents international legitimacy and which is based on the U.S. initiative to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

During a meeting at noon today with a media team from a UN fact-finding mission, the minister said: At the Madrid conference, the world sensed that Israel was the only obstacle to achieving peace because it refused to apply the resolutions of international legitimacy and to exchange land for peace.

The minister answered the team members' questions, and recounted the terrorist past of Israel's rulers before and after 1948 and Israel's aggressive acts.

AL-BA'TH Urges 'Clear, Definite' Stand on Israel

JN1311085991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Against the International Community," AL-BA'TH writes about the enemy leaders' statements which again prove their expansionist, hostile intentions. The paper says: We were not exaggerating when we said that Israel does not seek peace. When Israel went to the Madrid conference, as its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in his official speech there, it did so unwillingly.

AL-BA'TH adds: The day before yesterday also, the Zionist enemy, not satisfied with reiterating its annexation of the Golan despite the entire world's rejection of this illegitimate step, adopted another decision that was announced by Shamir himself, which is that Israel would remain in the occupied Arab territory—the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon. Thus, Shamir has carried out what he noted in the Madrid conference when he rejected the U.S. plan calling for exchanging land for peace. Shamir reiterated Israel's determination to materialize the slogan peace in exchange for peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: Yes, this is Israel: It wants Arab territory, peace, and everything, free. Thus, we believe that Israel's rejection of any move toward a just and comprehensive peace does not need further clarification. In light of this, we believe that it is the duty of the international community to adopt a clear and definite position on Israel's anti-peace stands. If these policies continue, it will be difficult to predict the consequences. And we refer here, in particular, to the forces which are directly involved in the process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: What is more important is that the required Arab position should be on the level of the concern for pan-Arab rights, the nation, and its future.

Afghanistan

Refugees in Pakistan Clash Over Moscow Talks

BK1911120891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 19 (AFP)—Clashes over the Afghan mojahedin's recent talks in Moscow have left four dead and two injured in a Pakistani refugee camp, officials and rebel sources said here Tuesday.

Groups belonging to hardline leader Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction and the moderate leader Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi's Harakat-e Enquelabi exchanged gunfire during an argument over whether mojahedin officials should have visited the "enemy country."

Besides unleashing bursts of the automatic Kalashnikov rifles, they also used mortars in the Girdi Jungle camp, located 360 kilometers (225 miles) west of here in the southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan.

Hekmatyar had opposed the visit to Moscow by an 11-member team which included fundamentalist leader Burhanuddin Rabbani and Mohammadi.

The delegation in its first visit to Moscow since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and installation of successive communist governments in Kabul, held talks with senior Soviet and Russian officials to end the civil war.

The Moscow talks reportedly resulted in an agreement on replacing the communist regime in Kabul with an interim Islamic government.

The guerrillas agreed to start arrangements by the end of the year to release an estimated 50 Soviets soldiers captured by the mojahedin before the Soviet withdrawal in 1989.

Hekmatyar, whose faction is believed to be holding most Soviet POWs, has denounced the outcome of the talks, claiming they would have no impact on the mojahedin's fight against President Najibollah's government.

Muslim rebels blame Moscow for the killing of some 1.5 million people in the 13-year-old war in their country.

Rebel Leader Rabbani Returns From Moscow Talks

Terms Talks 'Fruitful'

BK1911150191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 19 (AFP)—An Afghan resistance delegation returned here from Moscow on Tuesday, greeted by hundreds of slogan-shouting countrymen at the airport.

The delegation had gone to the Soviet capital to discuss peace in Afghanistan with Soviet and Russian Republic officials.

Its leader Buhanuddin Rabbani, foreign minister in an rebel government-in-exile based in Pakistan, told Radio Pakistan at the airport that the mission had been "effective and fruitful."

He said the Soviet Union agreed to stop delivering arms to Kabul regime well before the cutoff date of January 1, 1992 previously announced by Moscow and Washington, which arms the mojahedin resistance.

Rabbani also said that Moscow had condemned its 1979-89 military intervention in Afghanistan.

The mojahedin meanwhile told the Soviets and Russians that peace could be guaranteed only if an Islamic government was established in the Central Asian nation, the delegation leader said.

"We have reached a point where the Soviets are getting closer to objectivity," he said, thanking Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran for facilitating the talks.

According to a joint statement issued after the Moscow meetings on November 11 to 15, the Soviet Union endorsed a mojahedin demand that power in Afghanistan be transferred to an interim Islamic government.

The resistance agreed to free a first batch of Soviet prisoners of war before the end of the year in exchange for Moscow's commitment to accelerate the stoppage of arms shipments to Kabul.

The delegation made a pilgrimage to Mecca, the Islamic holy city in Saudi Arabia, enroute to and from the Soviet capital.

The radical Hezb-e Eslami resistance faction, headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar, has denounced the outcome of the Moscow discussions, saying Rabbani's delegation had returned empty-handed.

Mojahedin guerrillas have continued fighting the Kabul government since the withdrawal in 1989 of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in 1989, hoping to overthrow President Najibollah and set up an Islamic government.

Moderate mojahedin groups and Pakistan officials welcomed the Moscow talks as helpful towards ongoing diplomatic efforts for a political settlement under a United Nations plan announced in May.

The plan calls for an inter-Afghan dialogue to install an interim administration in Kabul pending elections.

Says Soviets To Aid Reconstruction

BK1911155891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Afghan mojahedin delegation to Moscow, has said that

their talks with Soviet leaders were cordial and fruitful. He was talking to Radio Pakistan's representative in Islamabad this afternoon upon his return from Moscow.

He said that both sides agreed on the release of prisoners of war and that the mojahedin delegation has given assurances that the first group of Soviet prisoners will be released by 1 January of next year.

Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani said that the Soviet Union has consented to help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He said they have embarked on a stage in which the Soviet leadership is adopting a reasonable stand.

Says USSR Withdrawing Missile Crews

BK2011084091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has started pulling out its military personnel operating Scud missiles against mojahedin rebels in Afghanistan, a top resistance leader here said Wednesday.

Moscow has never admitted mojahedin allegations that hundreds of Soviet officers and advisers were stationed in Kabul and Jalalabad, operating and guiding the Afghan Army in the launch of surface to surface long-range missile battery against the resistance gunnery.

"According to information received today, the Soviet Union has started withdrawing its Scud missile operators," Burhanuddin Rabbani told a news conference on his return from Moscow where he led a resistance delegation at last week's talks with Soviet and Russian officials.

The Soviet Union officially pulled all its forces out of Afghanistan in 1989, nearly 10 years after invading the country in the wake of factional fighting in the communist government in Kabul.

Rabbani said a joint Soviet-mojahedin commission will meet in Pakistan soon to finalise arrangements for an interim Islamic government in Afghanistan as agreed by the two sides in Moscow.

"There will be no representative from (Afghan President) Najibollah's party or people associated with his regime in this commission," he said, contrary to a suggestion contained in the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller's May 21 proposal.

The Moscow communique released Friday "is a new chapter" in the peace process and it would now "form the basis for us to move forward" in ending the 13-year-old civil war in Afghanistan, he said.

The U.N. blueprint had called for an intra-Afghan dialogue for a broadbased representation of Afghan society in an ultimate peace settlement.

"We will not talk to puppets, we have decided to talk to their masters," Rabbani said, stressing that the Soviet side will represent the regime it had installed in Kabul after the 1979 invasion.

Hekmatyar Condemns U.S. Threat Against Libya

BK1911152791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 19 (AFP)—A radical Afghan mojahedin leader denounced Tuesday the U.S. threat to Libya as part of a campaign of domination.

Golboddin Hekmatyar, chief of the Hezb-e Eslami faction, in a statement carried by the Afghan news agency, urged Muslim states to unite against the "sinister" U.S. designs.

U.S. officials have recently blamed Libyan agents for the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland in December 1989 which killed 290 people.

"The American threat to Libya after the devastation of Iraq is a clear example of her nefarious intentions," Hekmatyar said, adding "the imperialists should not be allowed to devastate Muslim states one by one."

The statement came as U.S. and Pakistan held high-level talks here to mend relations hurt by freezing of American aid last year over Islamabad's nuclear programme.

"If the Muslim community unites under the banner of Islam, no power on earth can challenge them," the mojahedin leader said.

Hekmatyar, who boycotted talks in Moscow by a mojahedin delegation this month, has often accused the United States of trying to impose an anti-mojahedin settlement on Afghanistan in cooperation with the Soviet Union, which backs the government in Kabul.

India

Foreign Minister Discusses Moscow Talks

BK1911150091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] A multidisciplinary delegation will visit Moscow next month to discuss arrangements for cooperation in different areas with both the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. This was stated by the minister of external affairs, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, in New Delhi today.

Speaking to newsmen about his five-day visit to the Soviet Union, Mr. Solanki said his discussions at all levels were marked by warmth and understanding. There is sincere desire on the part of the Soviet and Russian leadership to seek speedy and satisfactory solutions to some of the problems that have recently cropped up in India-Soviet relations because of the structural changes taking place in the Soviet Union.

Replying to questions, Mr. Solanki said that he conveyed India's unhappiness to the Soviet Union over its support in the United Nations to Pakistan's resolutions on nuclear-weapons-free South Asia. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, who was also present, said the Soviet parties were told that Pakistan resolutions were basically a propaganda campaign carried out year after year in the General Assembly.

Mr. Solanki said the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Boris Pankin, explained that Moscow has taken the nuclear disarmament program in conjunction with the United States. It was in line with this policy that it decided to support anything which helps develop nuclear-weapons-free areas. Mr. Pankin assured that the Soviet decision in no way diminishes its close relationship with India.

Finance Minister Vows Economic Liberalization

BK2011094891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The government will further liberalize the economy and trade policy to become a competitive trade partner in the international market. Addressing the opening session of the Indo-U.S. joint business council meeting in New Delhi today, the finance minister said the government proposes to remove foreign exchange regulations to make the rupee freely convertible.

Reiterating the government's stand that economic and trade reforms are irrevocable, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that India is now resolved to integrate its economy to the world economy. He said the tariff structure has remained high and efforts will be made to cut it down.

Iran

'Possibilities' for Hostage Release 'Next Week'

LD2011123691 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 20, IRNA—"There are strong possibilities that another Western hostage will be released in Beirut by the end of the next week," informed sources in Beirut said Wednesday.

The sources said that Joseph Cicippio, the 57-year-old American hostage, stood a better chance.

Cicippio, former deputy comptroller of American University of Beirut, was kidnapped in September 1986. Later, the "Revolutionary Justice Organization" took the responsibility for his kidnapping.

According to the same sources, special representative of the U.N. secretary general Giandomenico Picco, who is currently in Italy, is expected in the region next week to resume his mission.

The news comes after two Western hostages, special envoy of the Archibishop of Canterbury Terry Waite and Professor of the American University in Beirut Thomas Sutherland, were released Monday.

Commentary—Era of Hostage-Taking Drawing to End

LD1911130991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, two Western hostages in Lebanon were released. Terry Waite, the Canterbury church's envoy, after a period of four years and nine months, and Thomas Sutherland, the former dean of the Agricultural College of the American University of Beirut after a period of six and a half years, gained their freedom yesterday evening, leaving Beirut for Syria.

According to Western news sources, the statement by the Islamic Jihad Organization was issued around noon yesterday, in which it was stated briefly and without any introduction: "To complete what we have started with the UN secretary-general, we announce today the release of, first Terry Waite, and second, Thomas Sutherland." The two hostages were released yesterday evening, and according to the IRNA in Beirut, the two were taken to Damascus under heavy security. Terry Waite is to leave Damascus for Cyprus, and Sutherland for Frankfurt.

With the release of the two Western hostages, there remain a total of another six Western hostages held captive in the hands of the kidnapping organizations: three Americans, two Germans, and an Italian. It has been said that the three remaining American hostages will also be freed soon, whereas there has been no hard news in respect of the two German hostages.

The UN secretary general initiated serious action in the hostage saga last Ordibehest [month beginning 21 April], irrespective of whether the kidnapping organizations and/or the governments were or were not in favor of it.

The release of the hostages is intertwined with two other factors: The release of the Lebanese detainees from the Israeli prisons, such as Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, one of the Hezbollah leaders, and the release or news on the fate of a number of Israeli soldiers or mercenaries. Since the start of the UN secretary- general's efforts, a total of six hostages, 66 Lebanese prisoners, nine bodies belonging to Hezbollah, and the body of an Israeli soldier, were freed or exchanged. In view of the secretary general's efforts, and with the cooperation of Iran, Syria, and the kidnapping organizations with him, it is expected that the hostage file will be closed forever, a process expedited with the release of the American and British hostages yesterday.

Meanwhile, analysts believe that the Zionist regime is dissatisfied with the release of the hostages. It had even attacked a number of Lebanese villages on several occasions and killed a number of Lebanese civilians, on the eve of the hostages' release, in order to prevent their

release. It was made clear on many occasions that Israel's release of a greater number of Lebanese prisoners would expedite the freedom of the hostages; however, the Zionist regime and its mercenary Antoine Lahad, who calls himself the commander of the South Lebanon Army, have in effect done very little. Perhaps one of the reasons for this Zionist stance is that it does not wish to see the release of the hostages work in the interest of Syria and Iran on the international scene.

The same observers add that in addition to Israel, Western governments too are not too keen on the release of their hostages. Western governments appear to be bent on resolving the release of hostages on a propaganda level, and for the sake of public consumption, whereas in fact, the release or the capture of one or two of their citizens does not cause them strategic problems; Instead, these governments seek to exploit the hostage issue, as a lever for exerting pressure on a number of governments in the region.

In any case, the speedy release of the hostages and the gradual success of the UN secretary general's plan indicate that the kidnapping organizations have decided to close this file, and the intransigence of the Zionist regime, the deliberate negligence of the others, and the incorrect and mistaken stance of a number of Western governments will not affect their aim.

Reports Cited on Waite's Alleged Intelligence Role

LD1911110391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Simultaneous with the release of Terry Waite—one of the two Western hostages—by the Islamic Jihad in Lebanon, the U.S. television network CBS revealed that the said English hostage was carrying a transmitter-receiver during his mission in Beirut, to enable U.S. authorities to find out the exact place where the Western hostages were being kept in Lebanon. According to an AFP report from Washington, at the time of his abduction in Lebanon in early 1987, Terry Waite had travelled to Beirut as the special envoy of Britain's Archbishop of Canterbury to negotiate with the kidnappers in Lebanon. The American television network CBS added: The discovery of this transmitter-receiver was the reason for his kidnapping. Furthermore, officials from the U.S. intelligence apparatus, without disclosing their identity, confessed in an interview with the official British radio BBC, that Terry Waite's actions in terms of contacting the kidnappers were being monitored by the Americans. The Americans intended to discover the place where the hostages were being kept by tapping their telephone conversations.

Majles Deputy Speaker Defends Qom Meeting

LD1911102691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Statement by unidentified Majles deputy on behalf of Majles Deputy Speaker Hoseyn Hashemiyan; at Majles session in Tehran on 19 November—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemiyan, the deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles, accompanied by a group of deputies of the Islamic Majles, recently met the grand ayatollahs in Qom to ask their assistance in connection with the Palestine issue. In the wake of this meeting, the esteemed deputy speaker of the Majles was summoned to the special court for the trial of the clergy. This worried and disconcerted some honorable deputies of the Majles. Since foreign radio stations exploit these events to pretend there is discord among the responsible officials of the system, the esteemed deputy speaker of the Majles has patiently and wisely prepared a short statement to deprive the aliens of exploiting the situation. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. O Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran. In the wake of being summoned by the respectable special court for the trial of the clergy in connection with the Qom visit, the foreign mass media and their hirelings are desperately trying to magnify the issue as if there were discord among the state authorities. No doubt they are hoping to realize their sinister objectives. I must decisively declare that there is no discord among the state authorities on safeguarding the gains of the revolution and the Islamic Republic and on the need to confront the enemies. All branches of the ruling body, hand in hand with the heroic and committed nation, are standing behind the leader of the revolution and will move toward a bright future. We are all united in our sacred goal, and the sworn enemies of the revolution should not attach any hope to such baseless rumors.

While thanking those brothers who have spoken in my support, I call on everyone to end the discussions soon and bring despair to the enemy. Success comes from God's assistance only. Peace be upon you all.

[Signed] Hoseyn Hashemiyan

'Conspiracy' Alleged

LD1911113891 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol- Eslam Hoseyn Hashemiyan who was summoned to the special clerical court last week, in a brief statement here Tuesday stressed that there is no discrepancy between the Islamic Republic authorities regarding the achievements of the Islamic revolution. The statement was read in today's open session of the Majles by deputy from Baft, Kerman Province, Yadollah Eslami.

Referring to the futile attempts of the Western mass media, the statement stressed "in safeguarding the achievements of the revolution there exists no dispute among the authorities." It also called on Majles deputies and other figures to end their debates in relation with his

summoning to the court. The clerical court confirmed last week that Hashemian had been summoned "on charges of conspiracy against the late imam's decrees."

Student Killed in Clashes at Tehran University

TA1911132991 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] According to reports, one student was killed in continued student unrest and clashes between Tehran University students and the regime's agents. Tehran University students, protesting recent organizational and academic changes at the university, gathered at the campus yesterday. This gathering eventually led to clashes between the students and the university guards, resulting in the injury of three students, one of whom died on the way to hospital.

Group of 77 Experts Session Opens 16 Nov

LD1611135291 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Saturday regretted that economic and social development, an undeniable right of the nations, was far from materialization despite constant emphasis by various international gatherings, UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development], especially.

Vahaji made the remark in his speech which opened the 3-day experts session of the Group-77 [G-77] to be followed on Tuesday by the 7th ministerial meeting of the G-77 countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

He pointed to a drop in price of raw material, failure to transfer technology to the developing countries, decline in financial aid extended to the developing countries, and lack of access to the markets of the developed world, as problems facing the developing nations.

To overcome such hinderances, the minister told the G-77 experts, fresh avenues should be explored for practical solutions, and developing nations should attain their goals through further unity and solidarity among themselves.

Vahaji said that the meeting provided an golden opportunity for the developing nations to re-examine their stands in the aftermath of the recent developments in world political and economic arenas.

Therefore, he stressed, Tehran meeting could be regarded as a turning point in the history of ministerial meetings of the G-77 countries.

The next speaker was Sirus Naseri, Iran's representative at the U.N. European headquarters who is to chair sessions of the senior experts of the meeting.

Naseri expressed hope that the meeting would work to materialize interests and ideals of the G-77 countries.

The experts are to hold a three-day deliberations and will later submit their proposals to the ministerial session be open here next Tuesday.

The four-day ministerial session of the Group-77 will be attended by ministers and representatives of 128 countries and 25 interantional organizations.

Third World Economic Expansion Viewed

NC1711102991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The seventh experts' session of the UNCTAD Group of 77 continued its second day of deliberations and assessed various problems pertaining to the economic expansion of the Third World countries and the elimination of the present obstacles created by developing countries in this regard.

The heads of the committees for Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania, submitted reports on decisions they made in the morning and afternoon sessions yesterday, which were attended by 84 member countries and held behind closed doors.

Sirus Naseri, Iran's permanent representative at the UN European section who was elected to head the experts' session of the Group of 77 countries in Tehran at the inaugural session, spoke to correspondents at the conclusion of yesterday's sessions. He said: A part of the Tehran declaration, which is scheduled to be presented on 19 November at the Group of 77 ministerial session in the form of recommendations, was assessed on the first day. Some amendments were made to the decisions adopted in Geneva and were approved by a majority of the delegations.

Obstacles to Economic Growth Examined

NC1811084191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The main discussions on 17 November revolved around infrastructural problems of the Group of 77 countries, including their inability to gain access to the markets of developed countries, the low price of raw materials, and the high debts of the developing countries according to an Iranian expert participating in the conference. The weak financial foundation of the Third World that hinders economic progress and the issue of coordination and solidarity among the Group of 77 were also assessed and debated.

The need for the Group of 77 to adopt a joint stance was stressed at the Sunday session in view of the eighth UNCTAD to be held in Colombia. This followed the presentation of recommendations by 128 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania.

The three committees [not further identified] insist that unified actions in commercial dealings and economic

relations with developed countries play a decisive role in attaining joint objectives, eliminating problems afflicting Third World countries, and achieving economic expansion.

Three-Day Session Concludes 18 Nov

NC1911094291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The session of economic and commerce ministers of the Group of 77 will open in Tehran with an address by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The economic and commerce ministers of member countries will study the final draft of the statement on the Tehran session on Third World economic problems.

The three-day discussions by experts on economic and trade issues and international affairs of the Group of 77 countries concluded yesterday according to our correspondents.

The head of Iran's team said the participants in the Group of 77 sessions had attained 80 percent consensus among the experts committees at the Tehran session.

He was speaking to local and foreign correspondents and stressed: The session has been very successful in view of the results obtained from the experts discussion.

According to IRNA, Mr. Dowlatabadi commented on yesterday's debates and stated: Strengthening the role of the UNCTAD secretary general and UNCTAD's supervision over international trade, and bolstering this organization for more active participation in the north-south talks were among the issues discussed in yesterday's session.

He added: Access to modern technology, facilites to transfer capital, and ecological problems of the Persian Gulf were also discussed in the course of these talks.

The head of Iran's team at the Tehran session referred to the participation of European countries in this session and said: For the first time, the European countries participated to present their views and this indicates these countries' wish for greater understanding of the Group of 77.

G-77 Meets; Single Iranian Exchange Rate Planned

President Opens Ministerial Session

LD1911091191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The seventh ministerial session of UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] Group of 77 [G-77] opened in Tehran today with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our correspondent reports in that connection:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president, in his official speech, pointed to global political-economic developments, and termed the convening of the session of the UNCTAD Group of 77 as highly significant. He said: Gross and excessive economic disparities continue to exist between the developed and the developing countries, in an era in which the new world order is taking shape. The deep technological gaps and economic inequalities between them have served to threaten their economic relations, as well as international peace and security. It is essential for all the developed countries to take effective and just actions toward reducing the aforementioned gap. This session should serve to exact an assurance from the industrial developed countries to carry out their historic commitments in that connection.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president termed the issue of development and alleviation of poverty in various dimensions, as the most significant stance of the world community in the 20th century. Underlining the need for regional cooperation among the developing countries as a strategy aimed at attaining collective self-sufficiency, the president remarked: Unfortunately at present, much of our resources are being exploited by the developed countries, hence depriving us of [using] them. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: No doubt it would be naive and simplistic for us to wait in the hope that the developed countries will voluntarily redress their past violations with the aim of bridging the gap between the south and the north.

The president stressed: It would be proper for UNCTAD not to ignore the political, security, and social problems of the member countries of its family in the Third World, and to use this assembly's privilege and power in the relevant world centers to resolve their problems.

The president also expounded the productive policies of our country in the past two years, for the participants in the seventh Third World ministerial session of Group 77.

Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speech

LD1911115891 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—The 7th ministerial meeting of the Group-77 was inaugurated by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Iranian capital Tuesday morning. In his inaugural speech, the president said regional cooperation among developing countries provided the means for attaining collective self-reliance and ensuring economic development.

The president also urged developing countries to devise a mechanism for economic and technical cooperation among themselves in order to present new patterns of cooperation aimed at strengthening economic structure and guaranteeing steady growth. "Such cooperation can reduce economic dependence of these countries on the developed countries", he told the session attended by ministers and representatives of 128 countries. The Iranian president stressed that one should be naive to

expect the developed countries to volunteer to make good on their past aggressions.

The president warned that the developing countries should await a "highly gloomy future" if they fail to take effective measures and initiative. Terming the debts crisis in the developing countries as a "major obstacle" in the way of their development, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani cautioned that as long as the terms of repayment of debts emanate from the wrong monetary policies of the industrialized countries "we will continue to witness such tragic debts crisis."

Elsewhere in his address the president touched on the issue of environment, stating that protection of the environment was vital in order to ensure grwoth in the next decade. He said that the industrialized countries must be held responsible for the global air pollution and irresponsible use of natural resources. However, the developed countries deal with the issue in a manner that practically creates problems for the developing countries. He continued that the developed countries should shoulder the costs of campaign to reduce pollution because he said part of the environmental pollution in most of the developing countries is either out of their control, caused by their poverty or modes of production imposed on them by the developed countries.

Turning to the U.S.-engineered new world order and efforts to implement it, he said the issue necessitates serious efforts of the developing countries. "The new world order should herald a real end to the cold war, reduction in arms race, global disarmament, sincere cooperation of the north and the south, end to plundering and exploitation of the countries which have been kept underdeveloped, attention to cultural and social values of countries and reducing the ever-increasing gap between the industrialized and the developing countries." The new world order should rather, he continued, "lead to economic, social, and political growth and progress of the developing countries, elevate their status in world economy and encourage them to embark on greater efforts towards socio-economic development and world peace and stability," he said.

The Iranian president made it clear that the success of the new world order depends on social, economic and political progress in the developing countries. "This order must be based on the united nations charter and principles of justice, love for peace, equity, mutual respect and territorial integrity and security of the world countries," he stressed. The president further told the guests of the four-day ministerial meeting that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and its nucleus, Group-77, can function as an efficient grouping for the North-South dialogue.

Referring to the economic achievements of Iran in the past two years President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that gross domestic product (GDP) showed an increase of four and 10.5 percent respectively last year and the year before. He added that over the past three years the budget deficit of the administration dropped by 70 percent.

On Currency, Exchange Rates, Policies

LD2011125891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1627 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Speech by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the opening session of the seventh ministerial meeting of Group-77 in Tehran on 19 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passsage omitted] One useful outcome of meetings like this is the exchange of successful experience gained by various members. In this connection, I would like to summarize our country's fruitful policies of the past two years. I would like to announce that the experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran are prepared to provide any explanations required by the esteemed members. In return, we expect to become familiar with the fruitful results of the intitiatives undertaken by your countries. The main points of our achievements are as follows:

1. Reduction of the government's direct intervention, and elimination of a major part of state intervention in production, distribution, and investment in society.

2. Movement toward the creation of a balance in the government budget by reducing expenditures incurred from state intervention in the economy, a logical approach to the payment of subsidies, the allocation of some state acitivities to the private sector, and also increased efficiency of the taxation system by improving and amending the taxation law so as to encourage the people to invest in manufacturing.

3. Amendment of the state currency system, reduction in the various exchange rates, and confinement of these to the present three rates [official, competitive, and floating rates], and movement toward the realization of the goal of a single rate system.

4. Preparation of suitable grounds for attracting the appropriate technology and effective application of this technology in the country's industries; and also the establishment and expansion of the scientific and research centers and universities so as to upgrade the level of knowledge and technology in the country. [passage omitted]

Unity Urged at Ministerial Session

NC2011125991 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov 20 (AFP)—Iran hopes to become a link between the Third World and industrialized states, a senior diplomat told a conference on developing nations here Wednesday.

"We can be a bridge between rich and poor, to serve as an example for the latter, as we have overcome economic difficulties despite eight years of war," the secretary general of the Group of 77 ministerial meeting, Sirus Naseri, said.

The conference, which actually groups 128 developing countries, is drawing up a declaration to serve as a guideline for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to take place in February in Colombia.

Besides China, which usually attends meetings of the Group of 77 of which it is not a member, several industrialized countries are also participating in the forum for the first time to bolster the North-South dialogue, organizers said.

Naseri, who is also Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, called for the "unity of the Group of 77," despite worldwide political upheavals.

"Differences have been overcome, we've reached a consensus and adopted a unified position for the next decade. Internal discussions within the various committees have been pragmatic," he said.

But he said that new economic structures should be set up to confront worldwide political upheavals. "It's now or never for countries in the south to grab the unique opportunity to defeat their under-development," he said.

Naseri said the Group of 77 was ready to begin a dialogue with the North and that while Tehran had no diplomatic ties with Washington he did not see any obstacles for Iran playing an active role in such talks.

Tehran radio's foreign service broadcasting Wednesday criticized countries that hedged their development on U.S. assistance, saying "they have realized that they had forfeited their independence and that their problems had worsened."

UNCTAD Secretary General Kenneth Dadzie of Ghana told the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES that the unity of developing countries was based on their common view of their dependence and their lack of political autonomy, as well as their determination to progress towards a more equitable world.

Ministers Hold Sideline Meetings at G-77 Session

Tabatabai Meets PRC Official

LD1811180791 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—China's Deputy Minister for Foreign Relations Wang Wendong [title as received] who is here for the Group-77 [G-77] meet on Monday conferred with Iranian Deputy Minister of Agriculture Hasan Tabatabai on mutual cooperation in agro- industries.

Tabatabai told Wang that Iran was willing to share China's experience in silk industries, sugarcane cultivation, and food processing.

Wang said the Chinese Government attaches importance to relations with the Islamic republic and is ready to play a role in national construction and development projects in Iran.

Vahaji, Kalantari Meet Cuban Minister

LD1811223191 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Cuban Commerce [Foreign Trade] Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, who is here for the ministerial session of Group-77, had separate meetings today with Iran's Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji and Minister of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari.

In his meeting with Vahaji, Cabrisas, who chaired the previous session of Group-77, said that in view of recent upheavals in the eastern bloc it was necessary for the Group-77 member states to maintain their unity and solve their problems.

Vahaji, who is chairman of the Group-77 meeting, considered it necessary for member states to draw up clear plans to counter the United States' version of the new world order.

Washington, he warned, was seeking a domineering role in an uni- polar world order.

Vahaji also briefed the Cuban minister on Iran's new policy of buying yellow and unrefined sugar from various countries including Cuba.

In his meeting with Kalantari, the Cuban minster discussed agricultural cooperation, and said that Cuba was ready to export sugar to Iran and collaborate in paper and sugarcane projects in this country.

U.S., Western Concern on Nuclear Cooperation Viewed

President Condemns U.S. Stand

LD1711094191 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday condemned the U.S. Administration for forcing various countries to refrain from any form of nuclear cooperation for non-military purposes with the Islamic Republic.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of Air Force pilots, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to big powers as "monopolizing and impudent countries."

"America has frankly and boldly announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no right to use nuclear technology even for non-military goals," he said adding that Iran is a signatory of the non-proliferation treaty.

The president added that big powers in order to attain their unjustified goals are openly pressing and threatening countries such as China and India.

As for pressure exerted by foreign powers on Iran to block the avenues for promotion of Iran's constructive cooperation with various world countries, he stressed "Under the present world conditions reliance of the Iranian nation on its own potential capabilities is a must."

Va'ezi Reaffirms Policy to EC

LD1911202591 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19 (IRNA)—Representatives of the European Parliament in their meeting with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi here today indicated that the recent political, social and economic developments in Iran have been favourable. They also said that Iran is geopolitically an important state especially in the light of developments to its north in the Soviet Union, and called for more solid relations between the Islamic Republic and the European Community.

In response Va'ezi said Iran is willing to cooperate with the EC and wishes to pool all its potential for ensuring a secure and stable region. He said the cooperation Iran has offered to neighbouring countries and other states of the region is proof of the country's good will. He criticized sporadic suggestions by certain international media of Iran's nuclear capacity, observing that Iran is opposed to all sorts of atomic stockpiling, and that it advocates total dismantling of all nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

The Iranian official reminded that Iran is a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation pact, and that it approves nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes.

The group of representatives of the European Parliament arrived in Tehran earlier today.

Commentary Notes West's Fears

NC1811163391 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 5 Nov 91 p 12

[M. Mollazadeh commentary: "The Friendship Among Iran, Pakistan, and the PRC, and the Contempt of the West"]

[Excerpts] The recent visit by PRC President Yang Shangkun to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan is receiving misleading propaganda from U.S. and European media. Europe and the United States have expressed their contempt of the broadening political and economic ties between Iran and Pakistan with the PRC, which they term nuclear cooperation, implying that this cooperation will culminate in the manufacture of nuclear arms and will endanger world and regional peace and stability.

Many Indian publications have made similar insinuations. A question arises, then, about the hidden motives behind such destructive propaganda.

The general impression is that the United States, in its policy of opposing the Islamic countries which are seeking independence of initiative from the collective body of powers dominating the world, is formulating its own propaganda policies, a sort of psychological warfare of distorting the truth. There is no doubt that obtaining nuclear energy for peaceful purposes has become a vital need for many countries. Countries such as Pakistan, which is deprived of even the most basic sources of fuel or only has the bare minimum, are forced to seek nuclear energy to provide power for its developing industries.

The United States and its European allies are well aware of this fact, but for various reasons they have raised the false hue and cry against nuclear weapons being manufactured by Pakistan in their propaganda to exert additional political pressure on Pakistan to abandon its nuclear program. [passage omitted]

Similar, less intensive, claims are being said about the Islamic Republic of Iran. The effort of these countries, however, to attain nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is not mentioned in the propaganda and the West capitalizes on the current world sensitivity toward nuclear proliferation. This is how it strives to incite public opinion against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

The PRC has also been the target of the West's destructive propaganda, but for relatively different reasons. From the Western vantage point, the PRC appears to be opposed to the new U.S. world order by continuing to adhere to its own independent and distinctive path. The United States cannot impose the new world order on countries of the world by itself even with its superior military power due to the Chinese stance in the aftermath of the changes in the Eastern bloc and the elimination of the Soviet Union from the international power equilibrium.

This aroused the fury of the White House, especially since most of the Third World countries do not see any long-term benefits for them in the U.S. new world order and are gradually demanding a greater role for themselves. [passage omitted] Another reason for the increasing rancor of the West on the PRC president's visit to Iran and Pakistan is the probable broadening of economic cooperation the visit will bring. The crux of the matter is that the West sees these two countries in the orbit of its economic domination and is sensitive about any other country attempting to forge economic relations with them, especially because the PRC is advanced in the manufacture of goods needed by Iran and Pakistan.

There is also the assumption that if the PRC helps Iran economically, the nation will be even more resistant to any Western economic domination. The West is not very pleased about this possibility. [passage omitted]

With time and the practical implementation of economic relations among the PRC and Iran and Pakistan, it can be anticipated that a deluge of destructive propaganda in the name of nuclear cooperation will be unleashed in various forms.

U.S. 'Self-Appointed Nuclear Cop'

NC1611122891 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Old Wine in Old Bottles"]

[Text] If the United States has become the world's arbiter of who gets or does not get nuclear technology, then we are indeed faced with a dilemma. On the one hand, obviously those who are in Washington's good books profit, while the other camp does not. On the other hand, the self-appointed nuclear cop stands today as the only nation in history that has deployed atomic weapons against the human race in any form or fashion.

The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are international household words because they were victims of American nuclear arms. Pyongyang, Beijing and Shanghai during the Korean conflict, and Hanoi in the Vietnam war era, were on the agenda for a nuclear dusting off but the perceived Soviet reaction made that untenable.

In the Middle East, it has been an open secret for 20 years that the Israelis are in possession of deliverable nuclear warheads. Their numbers now run into the hundreds. Who does not know that the Zionist state's weapons of mass destruction capacity could not have reached the scale it has without generous American support?

Given that history, the U.S. 'concern' over Iran and China's nuclear cooperation is at best hypocritical. And although Beijing and Tehran have both stressed that their undertakings in this field are for peaceful purposes, Washington simply does not possess the moral weight to unilaterally dictate who can develop a nuclear capability for whatever the ends may be.

However, in order to understand what is behind this latest alarm over what Tehran and Beijing are doing in the area of nuclear cooperation, one has to look at a bigger picture. The two capitals are also regularly bombarded by U.S. government, private sector and media reports for their alleged violations of human rights. Both countries, situated respectively at the Far East and West extremities of Asia, also happen to be stumbling blocks in the way of the so-called new world order steamroller being driven by Washington.

Given this scheme of things, be sure that the entirety of the American program being waged against the two states, goes far beyond their technical cooperation and human rights records. These issues are pretexts with which to meddle in domestic affairs with the object of fomenting discord, bending political trends westward and ultimately overturning the ruling political systems.

Nothing new in this, simply old wine in old bottles. Both China and Iran have been under direct Western pressure for the past 200 years. In this century, the victorious revolutions waged by the two nations were the severest of blows for the West and especially for Uncle Sam. Reversing those human epics was and still is an obsession with Washington.

Perhaps all those sovereign states so caught in the American policy cross hairs, should consider a perfectly respectable counterattack, at least in the sphere of human rights. The forum for the battle would be the United Nations whose charter calls for, "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination as to race."

Any reading of the situation of Indians, Hispanics and Africans in America informs one that these racial minorities are on a downhill slide; this according to all recognized indices used for measuring the quality of human life. Castro's Cubans, for example, enjoy a longer life span, better health, lower child mortality rates and a higher literacy rate than all three Americans groups.

Let all concerned first and third world nations take the U.S. before the U.N., both for its historical crimes against its Indians and Africans and the ongoing crimes against the same two groups, plus the Hispanics. Anyone with the vision and stamina to start such proceedings would be surprised at the potential support available from within the three groups. As for historical precedent for such an inquiry, South Africa and Iraq provide plenty of that.

This is something for Tehran, Beijing and the entire underdeveloped world to consider. In the meantime, Washington should be told that ties between the two states extend backs in time some 10x the age of the United States of America. Funny how this upstart on the world scene likes to dictate—tragic if she succeeds.

Ambassador to Turkey on State of Relations

NC1911093391 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 91 p 12

[Report on interview with Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri by unidentified correspondent in Ankara; date not given]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Turkey spoke to the RESALAT correspondent about socio-politics and the effects of reopening the Iran-Turkey railroad. He said: Next month the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit will convene in Tehran. Turkish President Ozal is to attend. He added: The two ECO members' Foreign Ministers' session will be held next month in Ankara.

Mr. Baqeri discussed economic and trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey, saying: A joint commission annually is convened. Last year First Vice President Dr. Habibi attended, resulting in dealings worth $2 billion. We regret that we have not reached that figure despite the signing of the memorandum of understanding. Transactions denote a much lower amount. Turkey has not purchased the oil it agreed to buy from Iran this year

Baqeri talked about reasons for not achieving the ceiling and for decreased trade exchanges between the two countries, attributing these to free oil from Saudi Arabia to Turkey, hence Turkey not honoring its commitments to Iran.

On Turkish internal affairs, the ambassador said: We witnessed elections in Turkey, which took place after extensive propaganda. The Turkish Government is facing difficult problems with dissidents in eastern Turkey and Turkey is carrying out military operations against a group of Kurdish workers known as the PKK on northern Iraqi territory.

Such clashes took place in the past few months. Not a day passes without the newspapers carrying reports of clashes between dissidents and Turkish armed forces. Nowadays intense military activity has been initiated in northern Iraq, while in Istanbul and other cities political and social problems are erupting and people are being killed.

The Tehran-Istanbul railroad operated before the Islamic Revolution, but was closed down later. A few cargo trains continued to run. Embassy follow-up and Tehran-Ankara cooperation found the route reopened and passenger services resumed.

Baqeri told passengers to be cautious since there are many unscrupulous people, especially in Istanbul, intent on hoodwinking Iranian passengers. Many have been duped in the past. Our compatriots are requested to travel to Turkey with prior information so that they may be safe from all kinds of dangers.

Reaction to Turkish Seizure of Arms Consignment

Action 'Sounded Alarm'

NC1611085791 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 91 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz commentary: "Whither Turkey?]

[Excerpts] Turkey's impounding of the vessel carrying arms for the Islamic Republic of Iran is contrary to international norms and is one of the number of plots hatched by the United States. The main U.S. objective is to prevent the sale and supply of arms to Iran. It wants Israel to be the superior military power in the Middle East and wants to deprive Islamic countries of the power to combat that regime. Turkey's role in this issue, however, merits attention.

Turkey has been a base of the U.S. security umbrella in the Middle East in the past few months. It has taken certain steps that have sounded an alarm.

Turkish Armed Forces entered Iraqi territory and bombarded Kurdish-inhabited areas to practice and improve its military efficiency. The allied forces (the United States, France and Britain), who already have their forces deployed in northern and southern Iraq on the pretext of supporting the Kurds, allowed Turkey to crush these same Kurds.

Turkey's pretext for suppressing the Kurds went even further. Turkey said it impounded the vessel carrying the Iranian-owned arms to prevent the Kurds from using them!

U.S. policy in Turkey, which includes upgrading the Turkish Armed Forces' strength and efficiency, related to Ozal's electoral defeat. Suleyman Demirel, who is far more Americanized, is Turkey's new prime minister despite the fact that he has been prime minister many times in the past and was removed from office twice by military coups. [passage omitted]

The U.S. faction in NATO wants to combat Islamic fundamentalism instead of Communism (which has been eliminated). This is the main objective of the military pact. The European faction is more concerned with strengthening independent European military power.

The military role envisaged for Turkey to counteract Islamic fundamentalism is important. Can Turkey play a role in this objective? Its unstable domestic condition, the lack of morale in the Turkish Armed Forces, and the fundamentalist leanings of Turkish Muslims are obstacles to U.S. objectives. It is possible that the Turkish Government will be unable to play this new role and will lose its current role!

Alteration in Trade Routes Urged

NC1811205291 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Oct 91 p 18

[Qareh-Bolaghi commentary: "The Transcaucasian Republics Instead of Turkey"]

[Text] Late last week it was reported that a ship carrying cargo for the Islamic Republic of Iran was detained in the international waters of the Bosporus. This news was published on the eve of the Madrid conference on Palestine and spoke of the commencement of a calculated and profound plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran at the hands of another one of its pro-American neighbors.

Turkey is a Muslim neighbor with whom we have had the best economic relations in the past and have thus played an important part in the development and progress of that country. Unfortunately Turkey has not behaved favorably as far as friendship and neighborly

relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are concerned. Friendship calls for contacts between neighboring countries. The lack of communication has created problems in bilateral relations every so often.

In view of the conditions that weakened the Iraqi regime and decreased the possibility of the continuation of plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran through that channel, this role will be given to Turkey in the future. Therefore, it is necessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran to seriously review all the grounds of cooperation with Turkey and to minimize it as much as possible so that it will thus neutralize the possibility of future threats against the Islamic Revolution by that country. It is also necessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran to seriously think of importing its goods through the Black Sea and via the republics in the southern Soviet Union, namely Georgia, Armenia, and part of Azerbaijan, which offer all the possibilities for roads and railway routes to be established. The Islamic Republic of Iran can also import a large amount of its goods from the Transcaucasian area, whose people have always had the best of relations with the Iranian people. This was once again proven by the visit paid early this week by the deputy head of the foundation for the oppressed and the disabled to Yerevan. In return the Islamic Republic of Iran should not spare any services to these republics and to other areas in Russia.

This alteration in bilateral economic relations and trade by replacing Turkey with the Muslim-inhabited republics in the Soviet Union will be a positive outcome for the Islamic Republic of Iran and for the people of these areas. It will also end the vulnerability of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its economic relations with Turkey.

Measure Considered 'Thoughtless Step'

NC1811112791 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Nov 91 p 18

[Vahid Agah commentary: "Turkey's Thoughtless Step"]

[Excerpts] A vessel carrying goods to Iran was impounded in Turkish waters. At about the same time Turkish forces insulted a group of Iranian students and some other compatriots of ours and flogged them.

Such instigation continues Turkish measures to mar relations between the two countries, with certain specific objectives on Turkey's part.

Expelling the Iranian Friday imam on the baseless pretext that Iran was giving refuge to anti-regime Turks can also be included in these measures.

There are at least two criteria to consider in determining the root of these hostile measures: The time it takes to raise such issues and the nature of the Turkish Government, in the throes of domestic change.

The Conference for the Support of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine was convened in Tehran and the cry of the Palestinian oppression reached Muslim ears and other nations, proving the solidarity of forces supporting the Palestinian nation, projecting Islam as an active presence in the region's destiny. [passage omitted]

This conference coincided with the imposed peace conference in Madrid and continued amid large scale moves. It did not hope to attain durable peace, but at this stage aimed to eliminate the loathing felt at being seated at the same table as the criminal Zionist regime's leaders, when the bitter memories of years of tyranny and oppression will never be erased from Muslim minds.

It could be said that the totally servile Motherland party government resorted to foolish initiatives to woo U.S. approval and support for its domestic and regional objectives and to keep enjoying U.S. approval.

Or, it could be that the approaching change in prime minister and ruling party found Motherland Party policymakers wanting to create misunderstandings between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the future Turkish Government, to embroil the new government in extraneous problems so that it could not surmount its difficulties at home. Thus it would ultimately be destabilized....

It may not be too farfetched to imagine that with the Motherland Party's defeat Ozal resorted to such measures to get closer to the White House so that he might not be eliminated from United States' political schemes in Turkey. Ozal envisages the Motherland party returning to power. It could be foreseen that there would be efforts to throw a wrench in the works, to snarl up Demirel's party foreign relations, but Suleyman Demirel seems to be a seasoned, veteran diplomat who can easily handle such a situation.

Foreign Minister Departs for Visit to Greece

LD1711184691 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Athens Sunday for an official visit at the invitation of his Greek counterpart Andonis Samaras.

Velayati will confer with his Greek counterpart on Iran-Greece relations as well as review the latest regional and universal developments with him, including the developments within the economic community. He will also meet with Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis, Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis, and the president of the Greek parliament.

The visit to Athens by Velayati follows the convening in Tehran this year of an Iran-Greece joint commission.

Velayati Returns, Comments on Talks

NC1911083491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The second joint Iranian-Greek economic commission will soon be held in Tehran, according to Foreign Minister Velayati, who returned to Tehran from Greece this morning.

He said: My meetings with the Greek president, prime minister, speaker of parliament, and economic and foreign ministers focused on bilateral ties.

He added: In the past year, we have exchanged 15 economic, political, and cultural delegations. In the near future, the prime minister and some other high-level Greek officials will be visiting Iran.

Commenting on economic cooperation, the foreign minister said: Greece will cooperate with Iran in transportation, shipping, and transferring Iranian gas to Europe.

He added: We agreed that our deputy foreign ministers will meet in Tehran soon to resolve residual financial differences left over from before the revolution.

U.S. Urged To Settle Pan Am Case at Hague Court

LD1711111191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, condemned American allegations regarding Libya's involvement in the crash involving an American plane in 1989 when addressing today's open session of the Majles. He also supported Libya's proposal to pass the case to The Hague International Court. The Majles speaker stressed the need to condemn all acts of terrorism.

Speaking of the United States' refusal to pass the issue to the International Court, he added: This act shows the United States' excuse to confront those peoples who stand up against hardship and who are not afraid of aggression. [passage omitted]

Deputy Urged To Clarify Position on Egypt Ties

NC1611114691 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Nov 91 pp 1, 12

[Asadollah Badamchiyan commentary: "A Brotherly Suggestion to Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani"]

[Text] Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani is a devout and dedicated individual who rendered valuable services in the field of Islamic cultural issues at universities prior to the Islamic revolution. He continued these services in the aftermath of the revolution, especially during the six years that he was the Iranian UN representative. U.S.-led world arrogance was so infuriated with him that it resorted to its old ploy of accusing him of "shoplifting," but it did not succeed in slandering him.

He has continued to render meritorious services in various fields since his return to Iran.

We greatly acknowledge his services, but wish to make certain suggestions to him:

Initially, I should state that he, like any other individual in a free country, is entitled to expound his views. We would not expect a person of his caliber, however, to make remarks which may create misunderstandings in the minds of the public and give individuals and political groups that oppose him any ammunition for their fire. He should remain strong in the field of foreign policy.

Raja'i-Khorasani recently discussed relations with Egypt which the Majles Foreign Relations Committee interpreted as favoring ties with Egypt.

It is obvious that Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani is not in favor of leniency toward the traitor Husni Mubarak, and he does not accept the Egyptian Government. What he meant was that there should be some relations with the vast Egyptian nation.

The mere proposition of Iranian-Egyptian ties on the eve of the Madrid conference was so detrimental that the evil BBC jumped at it for its own purposes.

The important point is that anyone who makes remarks should pay more attention to what will be construed from those remarks. If someone is opposed to King Hassan of Morocco or regards the South African regime as a corrupt and tyrannical regime, he should not mention ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and such countries in a context which would be misleading or capitalized on.

He should pay attention to the fact that the world of politics is different from the university and seminary environment, where all kinds of issues and suppositions can be debated without any averse repercussions.

In the world of politics even if the truth is spoken it is distorted to the benefit of the falsehood-disseminators and at times even one remark can harm an entire nation.

Incidentally, the remarks he recently made in answer to the Yazd deputy's remarks are an example of the above.

Some people can say bad things to their friends and group members without any fallout, and may even be defended or justified. For example, those who congratulated King Husayn for his anti-imperialist stance! However, these very persons seek pretexts to defame others.

It is hoped that Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani will issue a correction to his recent remarks. He should reply in a manner that eliminates any ambiguity and should emphasize the pure line of our foreign policy which is based on the protection of the sanctity and honor of Islam and the Islamic system, the powerful and logical rhetoric of the revolution, and on the defense of the interests of the vast Islamic community. He should thus foil all the plots of the enemies of God—all of which he himself believes in.

He should seriously pay attention to the fact that we do not have any need for relations with South Africa and similar countries and such remarks will bring nothing but harm to our foreign and domestic policy.

Habibi Meets Chinese Construction Minister

LD1311192991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] In a meeting between Chinese Construction Minister Hou Jie and first Vice President Habibi, the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the field of urban development and the reciprocal dispatch of the two countries's experts were reviewed.

During the meeting, Mr. Habibi expressed the hope that Iran and China's talks about reconstruction, port and mass housing construction come to a positive conclusion.

UN Team Reviews Losses During War With Iraq

LD0911175891 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—A United Nations fact-finding team reviewed with Iranian officials here today, varied dimensions of the losses inflicted on Iran during the eight-year imposed war.

Head of the 17-man team Abdirahim Abbi Farah who a few months back presented his first report to the U.N. chief on the devastation suffered by Iran, said he wants to have "detailed discussions" in order to assess the direct and indirect losses incurred, the amount of international assistance and Iran's potentials for reconstrcution.

"One of the important aspects of the first report was that it revealed to the world how Iran is shouldering the heavy burden of reconstruction, and making progress in this regard," Farah said in the meeting.

In reply, Foreign Ministry official 'Ali Khorram, who leads the Iranian team to the talks, thanked Perez de Cuellar for sending a "highly-expert" probe delegation to Iran.

"This shows the firm will of the United Nations secretary general for implementing the Resolution 598," which brought the Iraqi war to an end in August 1988, he said.

Expert discussions are in progress between the Iranian and U.N. teams to assess the astronomical war loss suffered by the Islamic republic, which according to some officials are well over one thousand billion dollars.

UN Team Leader Comments on Findings

NC1211155991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Abdirahim Abbi Farah met Hamid Mirzadeh, deputy president and special presidential emissary for the reconstruction of war-stricken areas, and noted the extensive damage and losses Iran suffered during the imposed war. Farah said: We should show the world the extensive dimensions of this destruction and its devastating effects on your economy and all other sectors of your country.

He elaborated: For this purpose we require intensive information and precise figures in all departments.

Farah added: During my previous visit and my inspection of various areas, we discovered that the scale of destruction and losses inflicted was so great that the preparation of a comprehensive report requires much more time.

During this meeting, Mirzadeh stressed the need for preparing a final report on the losses inflicted on Iran, and while alluding to the need for the United Nation's cooperation in accelerating this, he said: We consider the reconstruction of Abadan and Khorramshahr necessary for renewed activity on Arvand River. We hope that the UN secretary general will expedite the necessary preliminaries for dredging Arvand River.

War Damage in Abadan Area Inspected

LD1311230891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The visiting UN expert mission for assessing damage caused by the imposed war, led by Mr. Abdirahim Abbi Farah, the UN under secretary general arrived this morning in Abadan. Our correspondent reports: At Abadan Airport, the officials in charge of the reconstruction of the province of Khuzestan gave the UN team the necessary information on the destruction of Abadan's international airport and its reconstruction which is now in progress. Also, Minu Island, which is in the Khorramshahr District and is one of the fertile agricultural and fishing areas of this region, was visited by the UN team.

In continuation of the latter's inspection of the regions damaged by the imposed war, the level of damage sustained by Khorramshahr's big bridge which has recently been repaired and made passable; the soap manufacturing factory; railway and port facilities; houses and shops as well as the Vali-ye Amr Hospital of Khorramshahr were closely examined by them. The UN team also became aware of the level of damage sustained by Khorramshahr when it flew by helicopter over the city.

Damage to Agriculture Detailed

LD1811222191 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's agricultural sector suffered an estimated loss of dlrs [dollars] 26 to 27 billion from the Iraqi war, the head of the United Nations fact-finding team was told by Agriculture Minister 'Issa Kalantari here Monday.

U.N. Undersecretary General Abdirahim Farah is currently in Iran to evaluate the war damage incurred by the country as a result of eight years of the imposed war.

Kalantari said farmers in the provinces of Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Bakhtaran, Ilam and Khuzestan which were directly stricken by the war have either been killed or forced to immigrate to safe places at the time of the conflict.

"A lot of cattle perished and a great deal of agro machinery was stolen by the enemy," he told Farah.

In war stricken regions, said Kalantari, thousands of hectares of farmlands and orchards, irrigation systems, agricultural installations and wells have been demolished." [quotation marks as received]

Some 1.5 million date palms in the southern region were destroyed and others are dying slowly as a result of destruction of irrigation systems by the invading army, he added.

Two huge sugarcane processing complexes at Haft-Tapeh and Karun, both in the southern province of Khuzestan, were raided by Iraqi planes eight times, he said.

"With regards to such astronomical losses and lack of capital, we deem international aid essential," the minister said.

Farah who was shocked at the dimension of the devastation inflicted on Iran, said that during his visits to war-torn areas, he saw desolate farmlands and forests and contaminated agricultural soil.

Iran has announced that it has suffered over dlrs 1,000 billion in direct and indirect losses as a result of the imposed war.

Spiraling Inflation, Economic Problems Viewed

NC1911210491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Central Bank Governor 'Adeli said that the inflation rate rose from 9 percent last year to 18 percent this year. The main reason for this increase is the effect of the war on the economy and its reconstruction.

The increased demand for construction materials resulted in high prices in the sector. Imports of machinery and the materials required in reconstruction need enormous investment, which results in concomitant inflation.

In Iran, inflation is measured by the index of wholesale prices of commodities and changes in prices on the production and distribution level in the preliminary transactions. This index is obtained by comparing prices of more than a thousand goods obtained from information centers in 31 cities nationwide. [passage omitted]

With the implementation of the Five-Year Plan for socio-economic development and investment in infrastructure products the inflation rate began to decline. Rising demand for the present resources of the society and lower production and increased imports resulted in a 6 percent rise in inflation.

The Central Bank governor believes, however, that this rise is not cause for apprehension, but that it will pave the way for accelerating the bank's independence and will wean the bank from government support. The independence of the Central Bank will impart greater economic stability by means of a single rate for foreign currency, by protecting the value of the rial, and a long-term balanced policy. The officials are striving to eliminate difficulties in this area. [passage omitted]

It may be stressed that the control of inflation and the just distribution of income is one of the most important objectives of the country's Five-Year Plan. With the increase in the income accruing from exports, the path for the bolstering of just distribution of income can be paved by austerity, eschewing extravagance and better planning in order to mitigate the vulnerability of the low income stratum in conditions of rising inflation.

Pakistan

Minister Says State Aware of Indian Border Forces

BK1911133091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The senate today held a two-hour discussion on seven identical adjournment motions admitted yesterday on the alleged attacks on journalists. Winding up the discussion, the interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, held out an (?assurance) that the government was fully seized with the matter and would not shirk its obligation to uphold freedom of the press. He deplored incidents of violence against journalists and reporters and said that the federal government has duly directed the provincial governments to take judicial action against all those responsible for these events irrespective of their party affiliations. Besides seven movers, five other senators took part in the discussion on the motion. [passage omitted]

Earlier, an adjournment motion by Mr. Basharuddin Ahmad was (?not pressed by him) about the concentration of Indian troops on Rajasthan border and other Indian aggressive (?activities). The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddque Kanjoo, said the government is alive to the situation. He assured that Pakistan Armed Forces would defend every inch of the motherland [words instinct]. He added that the government fully shared concern of the members in this context.

The house will now meet on Saturday morning.